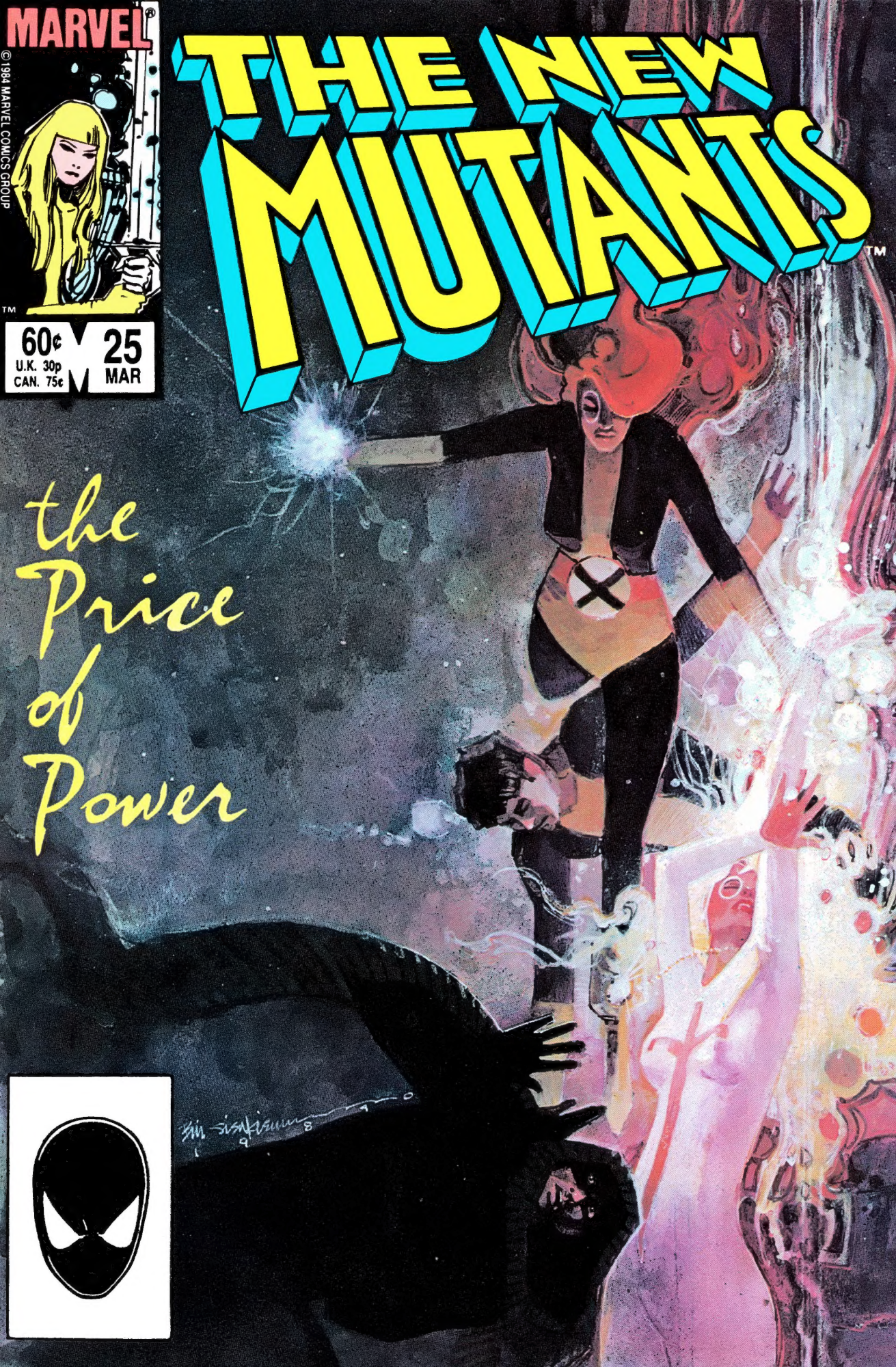
MARVEL
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THE NEW MUTANTS™
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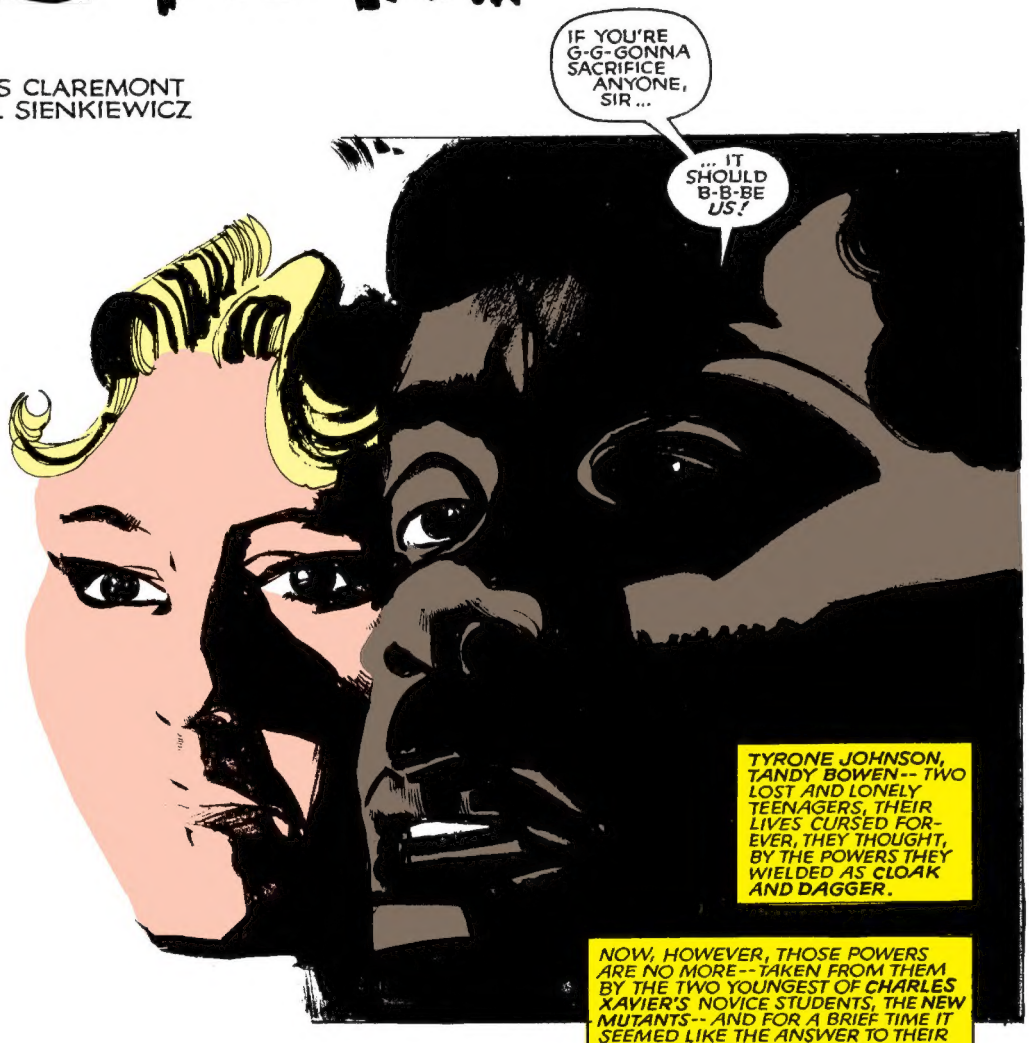
the Price of Power

THE ONLY THING TO FEAR...

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BILL SIENKIEWICZ


IF YOU'RE G-G-GONNA SACRIFICE ANYONE, SIR...
...IT SHOULD B-B-BE US!
TYRONE JOHNSON, TANDY BOWEN-- TWO LOST AND LONELY TEENAGERS, THEIR LIVES CURSED FOREVER, THEY THOUGHT, BY THE POWERS THEY WIELDED AS CLOAK AND DAGGER.
NOW, HOWEVER, THOSE POWERS ARE NO MORE--TAKEN FROM THEM BY THE TWO YOUNGEST OF CHARLES XAVIER'S NOVICE STUDENTS, THE NEW MUTANTS-- AND FOR A BRIEF TIME IT SEEMED LIKE THE ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYERS. THEY WERE HUMAN ONCE MORE, THEY WERE FREE!
BUT THE PRICE OF REMAINING SO-- THE CONDEMNATION OF TWO INNOCENT SOULS-- PROVED AN EVEN MORE TERRIBLE BURDEN AND SO THEY HAVE COME TO St. ANNE'S CHURCH ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE TO TRY TO SAVE THEM.

STAN LEE, *PRESENTER*
ORZECHOWSKI & BUHALIS, *LETTERERS*
GLYNIS WEIN, *COLORIST*
ANN NOCENTI, *EDITOR*
JIM SHOOTER, *EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*
NEW MUTANTS, *STARS*

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TANDY--?!?

UNCLE MIKE--!?!

YOU'RE DAGGER?! I KNEW YOU WERE A PRIEST-- THIS IS INCREDIBLE-- I NEVER DREAMED YOU WERE IN NEW YORK-- GOOD LORD, HOW YOU'VE GROWN-- GOLLY, YOUR *HAIR*, WHERE'D IT ALL GO-- YOU'VE BECOME A WOMAN-- Oh, IT'S *SO GOOD* TO SEE YOU-- AND SO LOVELY-- I REALLY MISSED YOU...

GLAD Y'ALL CAME, GUYS. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP.

WATCHING THIS HAPPY REUNION ARE XAVIER HIMSELF, AND SIX OF HIS CHARGES--

-- SAM GUTHRIE AND DANIELLE MOONSTAR, WHO SHARE LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YOUNGER GROUP...

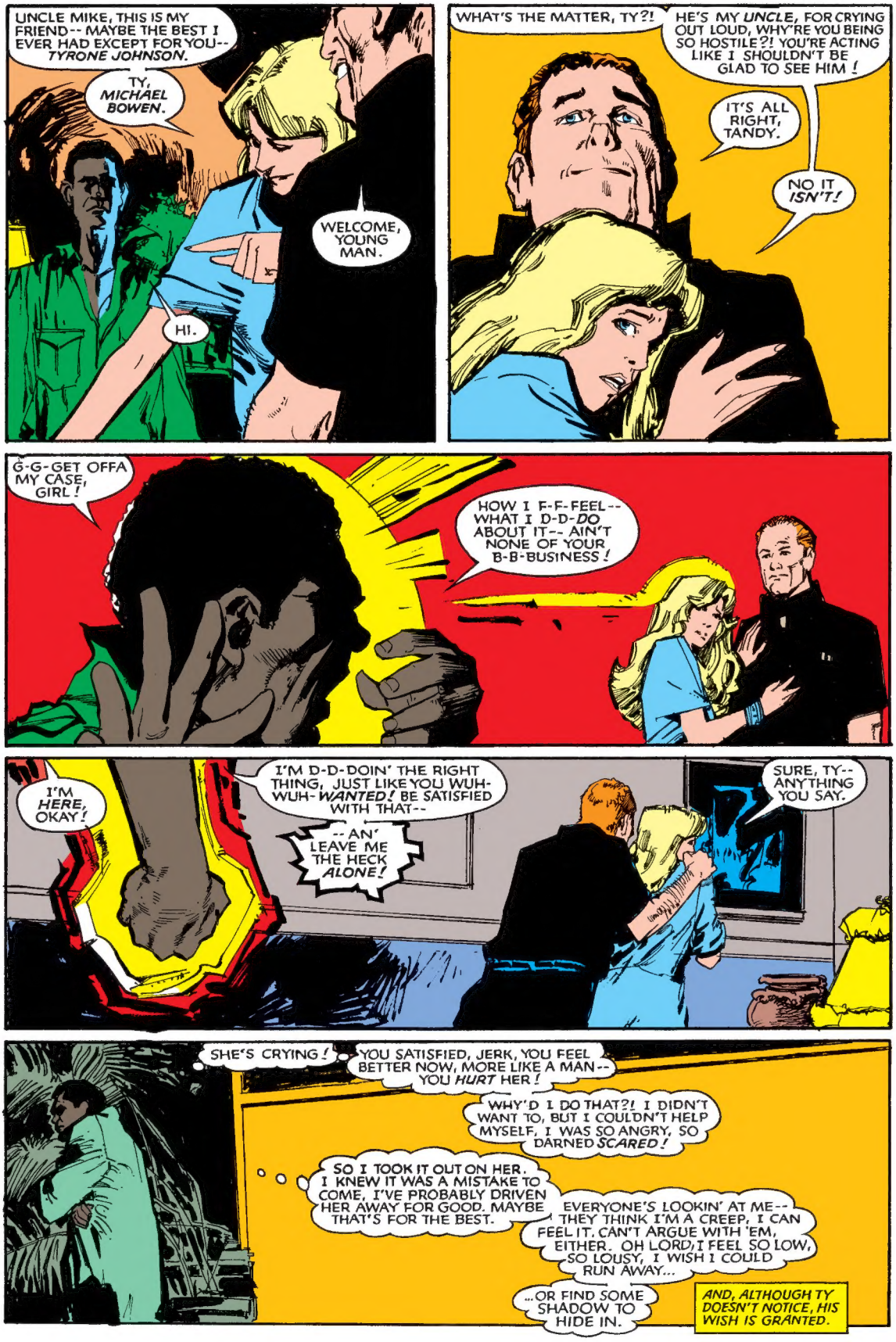
... RAHNE SINCLAIR AND ROBERTO DaCOSTA, THE REASONS EVERYONE IS HERE...

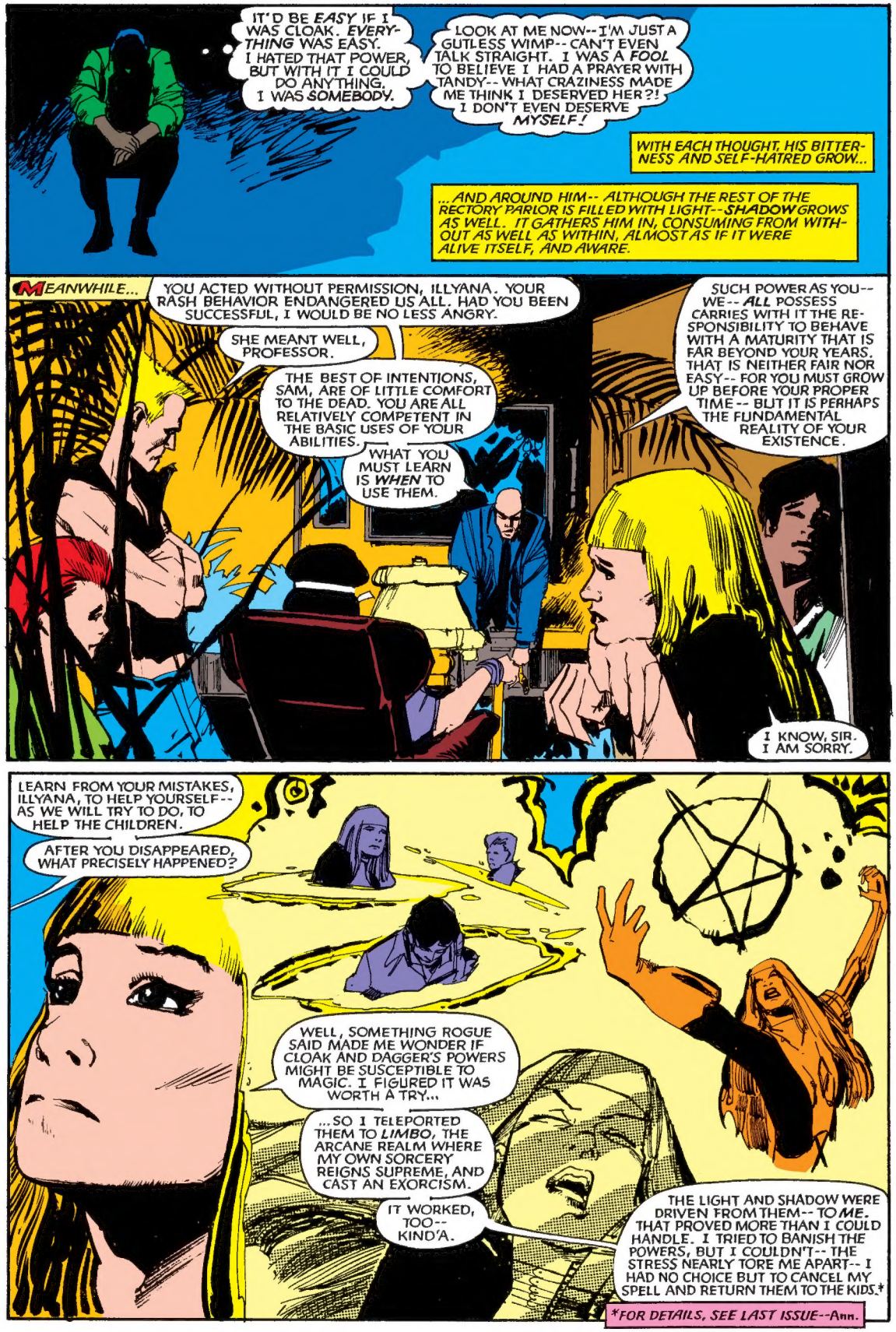
... ILLYANA RASPUTIN, A DEMON SORCERESS-- IN ADDITION TO HER MUTANT ABILITY TO TELEPORT-- WHO FEELS SINGULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE TO BE IN A HOUSE OF GOD...

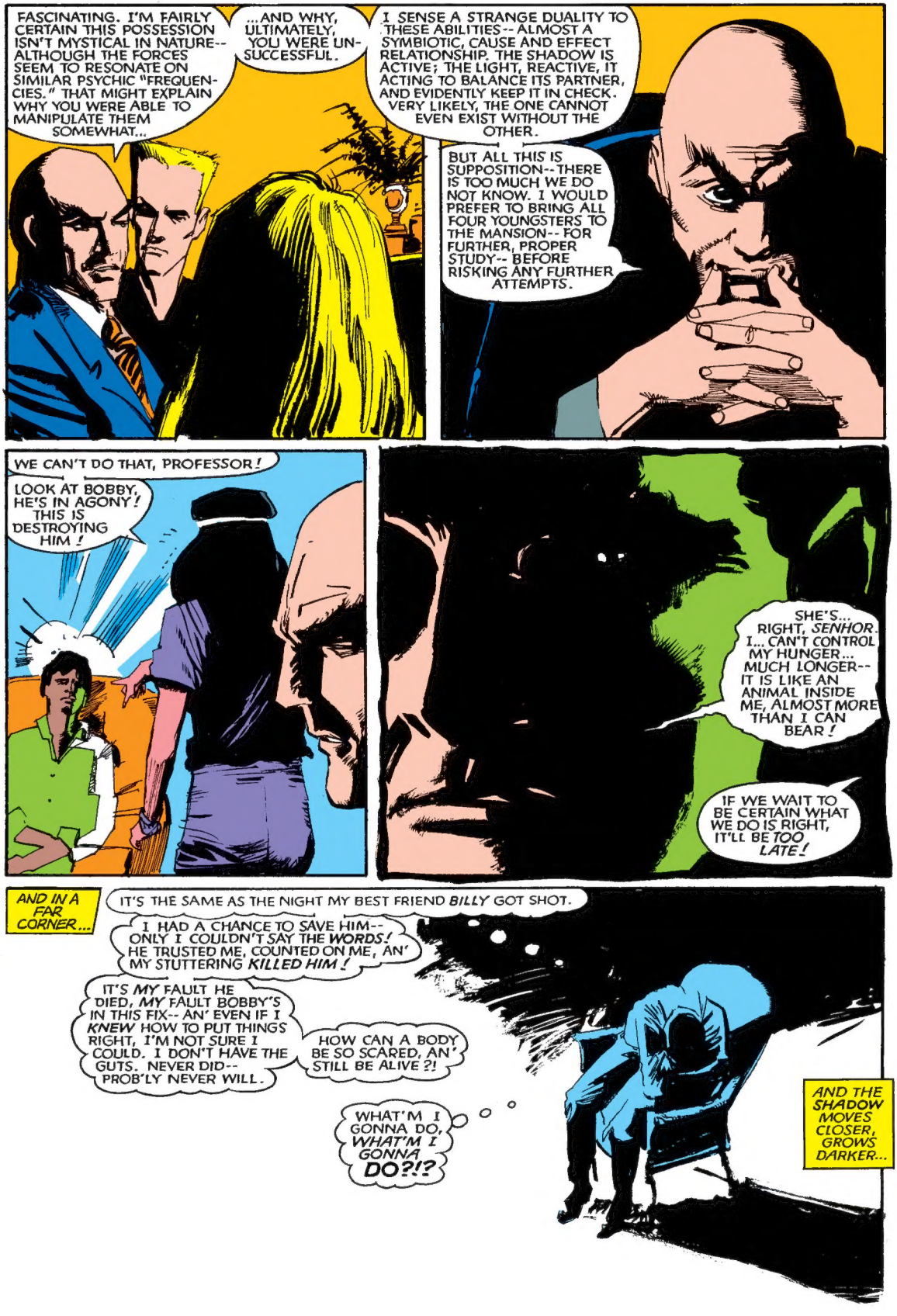
... AND WHOSE IMPROMPTU ATTEMPT, ONLY MINUTES BEFORE, TO CURE HER TEAMMATES OF THEIR AFFLICTION HAD DISASTROUS, NEARLY FATAL, RESULTS.

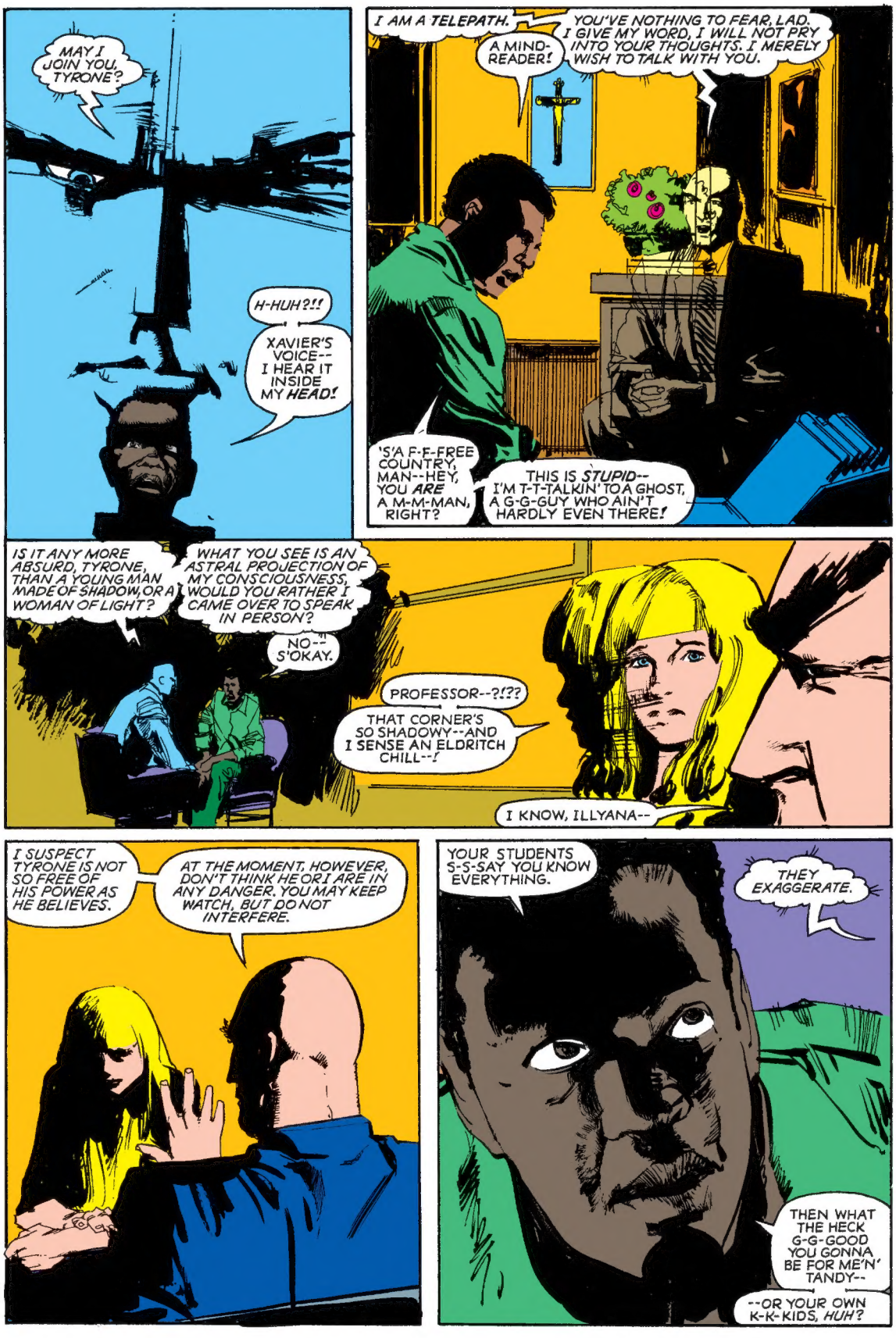
LASTLY, THERE IS ROGUE, A MEMBER OF XAVIER'S SENIOR TEAM OF SUPER HEROES, THE UNCANNY **X-MEN.**

*THESE SEVEN ARE MUTANTS, WHOSE UNIQUE GENETIC STRUCTURE GRANTS THEM EXTRAORDINARY POWERS, BUT ALSO SETS THEM FOREVER APART FROM THEIR FELLOW HUMANITY. IN THIS WAY, THEY ARE JUST LIKE CLOAK AND DAGGER-- THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN (BY ACCIDENT OF BIRTH, OR OF FATE) ALL ARE **OUTCASTS**, WITH NO ONE TO TURN TO, NONE TO DEPEND ON, BUT THEMSELVES.*

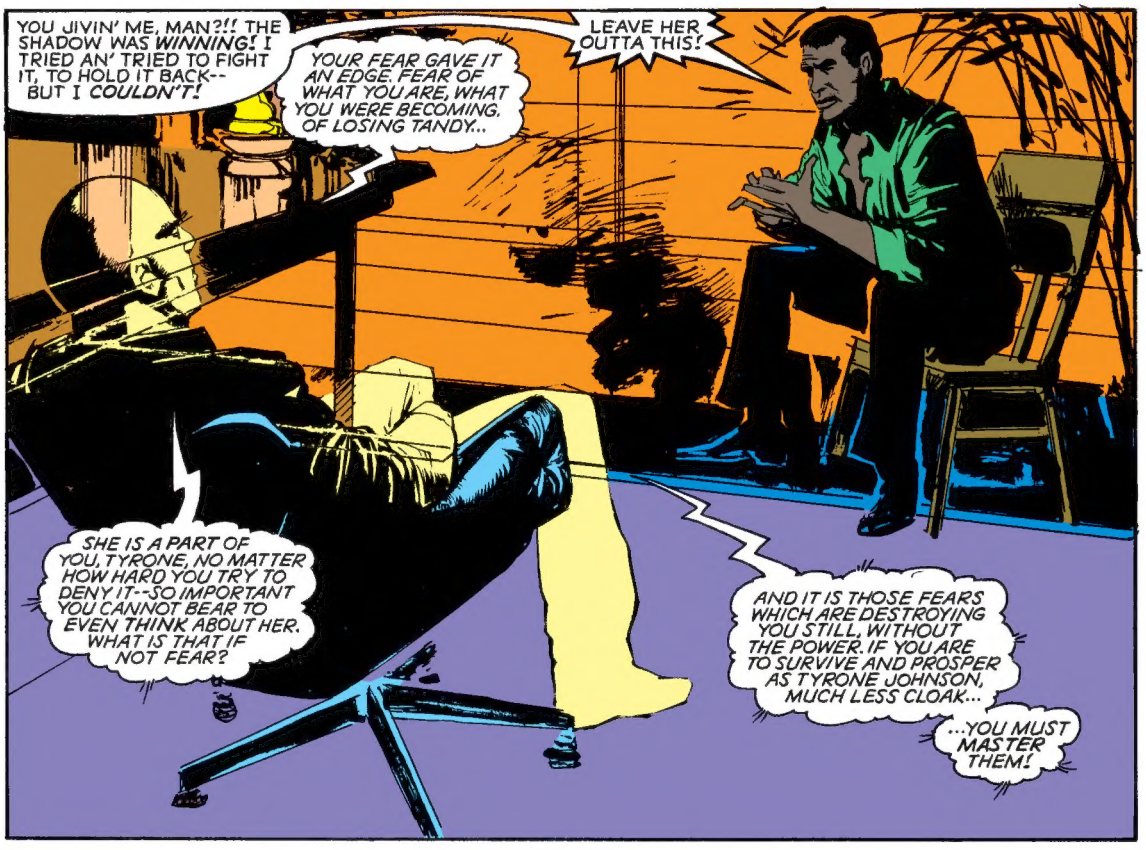

UNCLE MIKE, THIS IS MY FRIEND-- MAYBE THE BEST I EVER HAD EXCEPT FOR YOU-- TYRONE JOHNSON.
TY, MICHAEL BOWEN.
WELCOME, YOUNG MAN.
HI.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TY?!
HE'S MY UNCLE, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, WHY'RE YOU BEING SO HOSTILE?! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE I SHOULDN'T BE GLAD TO SEE HIM!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, TANDY.
NO IT ISN'T!
G-G-GET OFFA MY CASE, GIRL!
HOW I F-F-FEEL-- WHAT I D-D-DO ABOUT IT-- AIN'T NONE OF YOUR B-B-BUSINESS!
I'M HERE, OKAY!
I'M D-D-DOIN' THE RIGHT THING, JUST LIKE YOU WUH-WUH-WANTED! BE SATISFIED WITH THAT--
--AN' LEAVE ME THE HECK ALONE!
SURE, TY-- ANYTHING YOU SAY.
SHE'S CRYING!
YOU SATISFIED, JERK, YOU FEEL BETTER NOW, MORE LIKE A MAN-- YOU HURT HER!
WHY'D I DO THAT?! I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF. I WAS SO ANGRY, SO DARNED SCARED!
SO I TOOK IT OUT ON HER. I KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE TO COME, I'VE PROBABLY DRIVEN HER AWAY FOR GOOD. MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST.
EVERYONE'S LOOKIN' AT ME-- THEY THINK I'M A CREEP, I CAN FEEL IT. CAN'T ARGUE WITH 'EM, EITHER. OH LORD, I FEEL SO LOW, SO LOUSY, I WISH I COULD RUN AWAY...
...OR FIND SOME SHADOW TO HIDE IN.
AND, ALTHOUGH TY DOESN'T NOTICE, HIS WISH IS GRANTED.

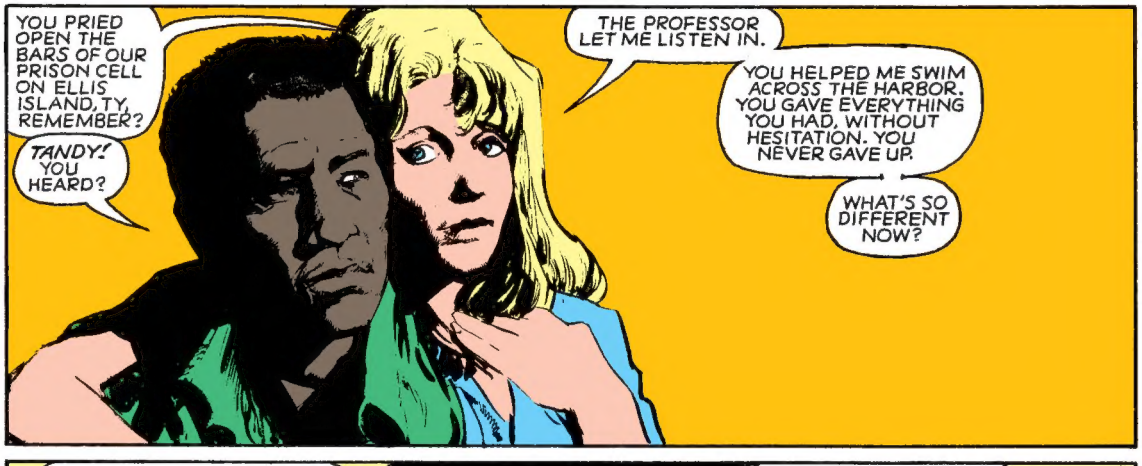

IT'D BE EASY IF I WAS CLOAK. EVERYTHING WAS EASY. I HATED THAT POWER, BUT WITH IT I COULD DO ANYTHING. I WAS SOMEBODY.
LOOK AT ME NOW--I'M JUST A GUTLESS WIMP--CAN'T EVEN TALK STRAIGHT. I WAS A FOOL TO BELIEVE I HAD A PRAYER WITH TANDY--WHAT CRAZINESS MADE ME THINK I DESERVED HER?! I DON'T EVEN DESERVE MYSELF!
WITH EACH THOUGHT, HIS BITTERNESS AND SELF-HATRED GROW...
...AND AROUND HIM--ALTHOUGH THE REST OF THE RECTORY PARLOR IS FILLED WITH LIGHT--SHADOW GROWS AS WELL. IT GATHERS HIM IN, CONSUMING FROM WITHOUT AS WELL AS WITHIN, ALMOST AS IF IT WERE ALIVE ITSELF, AND AWARE.
MEANWHILE...
YOU ACTED WITHOUT PERMISSION, ILLYANA. YOUR RASH BEHAVIOR ENDANGERED US ALL. HAD YOU BEEN SUCCESSFUL, I WOULD BE NO LESS ANGRY.
SHE MEANT WELL, PROFESSOR.
THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, SAM, ARE OF LITTLE COMFORT TO THE DEAD. YOU ARE ALL RELATIVELY COMPETENT IN THE BASIC USES OF YOUR ABILITIES.
WHAT YOU MUST LEARN IS WHEN TO USE THEM.
SUCH POWER AS YOU--WE--ALL POSSESS CARRIES WITH IT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO BEHAVE WITH A MATURITY THAT IS FAR BEYOND YOUR YEARS. THAT IS NEITHER FAIR NOR EASY--FOR YOU MUST GROW UP BEFORE YOUR PROPER TIME--BUT IT IS PERHAPS THE FUNDAMENTAL REALITY OF YOUR EXISTENCE.
I KNOW, SIR. I AM SORRY.
LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES, ILLYANA, TO HELP YOURSELF--AS WE WILL TRY TO DO, TO HELP THE CHILDREN.
AFTER YOU DISAPPEARED, WHAT PRECISELY HAPPENED?
WELL, SOMETHING ROGUE SAID MADE ME WONDER IF CLOAK AND DAGGER'S POWERS MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MAGIC. I FIGURED IT WAS WORTH A TRY...
...SO I TELEPORTED THEM TO LIMBO, THE ARCANE REALM WHERE MY OWN SORCERY REIGNS SUPREME, AND CAST AN EXORCISM.
IT WORKED, TOO--KIND'A.
THE LIGHT AND SHADOW WERE DRIVEN FROM THEM--TO ME. THAT PROVED MORE THAN I COULD HANDLE. I TRIED TO BANISH THE POWERS, BUT I COULDN'T--THE STRESS NEARLY TORE ME APART--I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO CANCEL MY SPELL AND RETURN THEM TO THE KIDS.*
*FOR DETAILS, SEE LAST ISSUE--Ann.


FASCINATING. I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THIS POSSESSION ISN'T MYSTICAL IN NATURE-- ALTHOUGH THE FORCES SEEM TO RESONATE ON SIMILAR PSYCHIC "FREQUENCIES." THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY YOU WERE ABLE TO MANIPULATE THEM SOMEWHAT...
...AND WHY, ULTIMATELY, YOU WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.
I SENSE A STRANGE DUALITY TO THESE ABILITIES-- ALMOST A SYMBIOTIC, CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP. THE SHADOW IS ACTIVE; THE LIGHT, REACTIVE, IT ACTING TO BALANCE ITS PARTNER, AND EVIDENTLY KEEP IT IN CHECK. VERY LIKELY, THE ONE CANNOT EVEN EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER.
BUT ALL THIS IS SUPPOSITION--THERE IS TOO MUCH WE DO NOT KNOW. I WOULD PREFER TO BRING ALL FOUR YOUNGSTERS TO THE MANSION-- FOR FURTHER, PROPER STUDY-- BEFORE RISKING ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS.
WE CAN'T DO THAT, PROFESSOR!
LOOK AT BOBBY, HE'S IN AGONY! THIS IS DESTROYING HIM!
SHE'S... RIGHT, SENHOR. I... CAN'T CONTROL MY HUNGER... MUCH LONGER-- IT IS LIKE AN ANIMAL INSIDE ME, ALMOST MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!
IF WE WAIT TO BE CERTAIN WHAT WE DO IS RIGHT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
AND IN A FAR CORNER...
IT'S THE SAME AS THE NIGHT MY BEST FRIEND BILLY GOT SHOT.
I HAD A CHANCE TO SAVE HIM-- ONLY I COULDN'T SAY THE WORDS! HE TRUSTED ME, COUNTED ON ME, AN' MY STUTTERING KILLED HIM!
IT'S MY FAULT HE DIED, MY FAULT BOBBY'S IN THIS FIX-- AN' EVEN IF I KNEW HOW TO PUT THINGS RIGHT, I'M NOT SURE I COULD. I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS. NEVER DID-- PROB'LY NEVER WILL.
HOW CAN A BODY BE SO SCARED, AN' STILL BE ALIVE?!
WHAT'M I GONNA DO, WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!?
AND THE SHADOW MOVES CLOSER, GROWS DARKER...

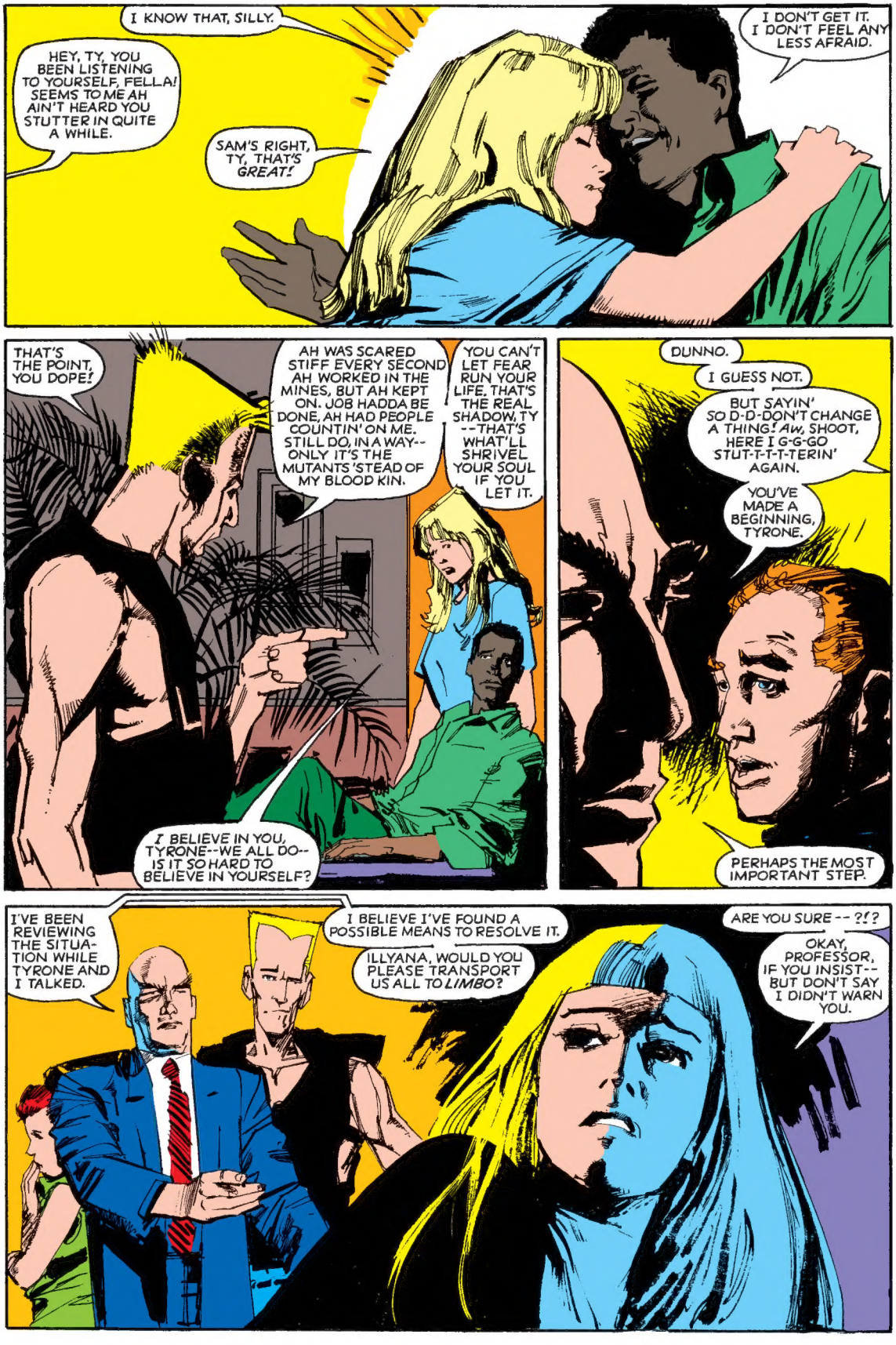

MAY I JOIN YOU, TYRONE?
H-HUH?!!
XAVIER'S VOICE-- I HEAR IT INSIDE MY HEAD!
I AM A TELEPATH.
A MIND-READER!
YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR, LAD. I GIVE MY WORD, I WILL NOT PRY INTO YOUR THOUGHTS. I MERELY WISH TO TALK WITH YOU.
'S'A F-F-FREE COUNTRY, MAN--HEY, YOU ARE A M-M-MAN, RIGHT?
THIS IS STUPID-- I'M T-T-TALKIN' TO A GHOST, A G-G-GUY WHO AIN'T HARDLY EVEN THERE!
IS IT ANY MORE ABSURD, TYRONE, THAN A YOUNG MAN MADE OF SHADOW, OR A WOMAN OF LIGHT?
WHAT YOU SEE IS AN ASTRAL PROJECTION OF MY CONSCIOUSNESS, WOULD YOU RATHER I CAME OVER TO SPEAK IN PERSON?
NO-- S'OKAY.
PROFESSOR--?!??
THAT CORNER'S SO SHADOWY--AND I SENSE AN ELDRITCH CHILL--!
I KNOW, ILLYANA--
I SUSPECT TYRONE IS NOT SO FREE OF HIS POWER AS HE BELIEVES.
AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, DON'T THINK HE OR I ARE IN ANY DANGER. YOU MAY KEEP WATCH, BUT DO NOT INTERFERE.
YOUR STUDENTS S-S-SAY YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.
THEY EXAGGERATE.
THEN WHAT THE HECK G-G-GOOD YOU GONNA BE FOR ME'N' TANDY--
--OR YOUR OWN K-K-KIDS, HUH?

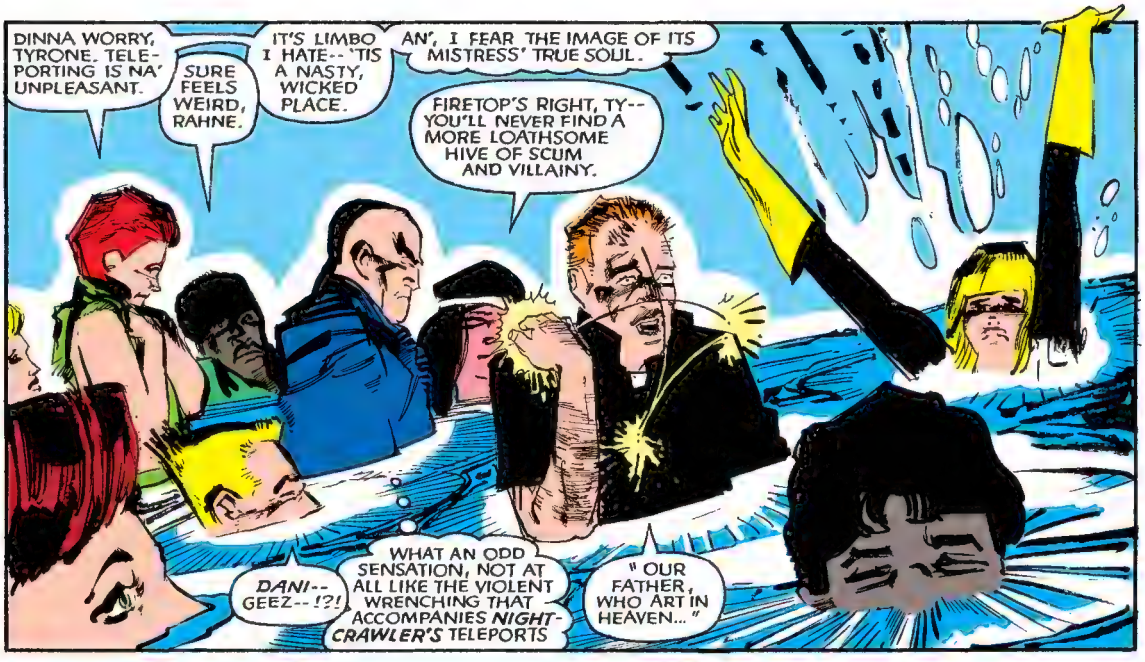
I REMEMBER THE FIRST THOUGHT I EVER "HEARD." IT WAS MY STEP-BROTHER, CAIN MARKO, CRYING IN HIS ROOM NEXT DOOR TO MINE. HE'D BEEN BADLY BEATEN BY HIS FATHER.
I'D NEVER FELT SUCH UTTER MISERY-- IT WAS FAR WORSE THAN ANY PURELY PHYSICAL PAIN--I WANTED TO MAKE IT GO AWAY, BUT WHEN I TRIED...
...ALL I MANAGED TO DO WAS THRUST MYSELF DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO CAIN'S MIND. IT WAS AWFUL. I WAS YOUNG AND SCARED--HEARING THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCING TERRIBLE MEMORIES THAT WERE NOT MY OWN-- I DION'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING OR HOW TO MAKE IT STOP. CAIN SENSED MY PRESENCE--HE BELIEVES TO THIS DAY THAT I DID IT DELIBERATELY-- I HAD DISCOVERED HIS SECRET SHAME AND HE NEVER FORGAVE ME FOR IT.
AFTER THAT, NOT ONLY CAIN'S THOUGHTS BUT EVERYONE'S WERE OPEN TO ME. I VERY NEARLY WENT MAD BEFORE I LEARNED TO CONTROL MY TALENT. THERE WAS SO MUCH HURT IN OUR HOUSE IN THOSE DAYS, ALL I COULD SENSE WERE DARK AND UGLY THINGS-- HOW SAD THAT OUR NEGATIVE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS ALWAYS SEEM TO BE STRONGER AND MORE PREVALENT THAN THE GENTLER ASPECTS OF OUR NATURES. WE ARE CREATURES OF PASSION, YOU SEE, WHICH TOO OFTEN, REGRETTABLY, FINDS ITS EXPRESSION IN VIOLENCE.
I BELIEVED MY PSI-TALENT WAS THE MOST HORRIBLE CURSE IMAGINABLE, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN ANYTHING TO GET RID OF IT. BUT, IN TIME, I CAME TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WASN'T THE ABILITY THAT WAS CAUSING SUCH ANGUISH...
...IT WAS MY FEAR OF USING IT, AND OF WHAT IT MIGHT SHOW ME.
YOU SAYIN' ME AN' MY POWER AIN'T EVIL, IT'S JUST THAT I'M SCARED?! IT'S MY FEAR THAT MAKES ME DO BAD THINGS, TRY TO HURT PEOPLE?!
I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, TYRONE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR POWER IS. BUT I DO KNOW THAT YOU SEEMED ABLE TO COPE WITH IT, WHEREAS ROBERTO CANNOT.


YOU JIVIN' ME, MAN?!! THE SHADOW WAS WINNING! I TRIED AN' TRIED TO FIGHT IT, TO HOLD IT BACK-- BUT I COULDN'T!
YOUR FEAR GAVE IT AN EDGE. FEAR OF WHAT YOU ARE, WHAT YOU WERE BECOMING, OF LOSING TANDY...
LEAVE HER OUTTA THIS!
SHE IS A PART OF YOU, TYRONE, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO DENY IT--SO IMPORTANT YOU CANNOT BEAR TO EVEN THINK ABOUT HER. WHAT IS THAT IF NOT FEAR?
AND IT IS THOSE FEARS WHICH ARE DESTROYING YOU STILL, WITHOUT THE POWER. IF YOU ARE TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER AS TYRONE JOHNSON, MUCH LESS CLOAK...
...YOU MUST MASTER THEM!


YOU PRIED OPEN THE BARS OF OUR PRISON CELL ON ELLIS ISLAND, TY, REMEMBER?
TANDY! YOU HEARD?
THE PROFESSOR LET ME LISTEN IN.
YOU HELPED ME SWIM ACROSS THE HARBOR. YOU GAVE EVERYTHING YOU HAD, WITHOUT HESITATION. YOU NEVER GAVE UP.
WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT NOW?

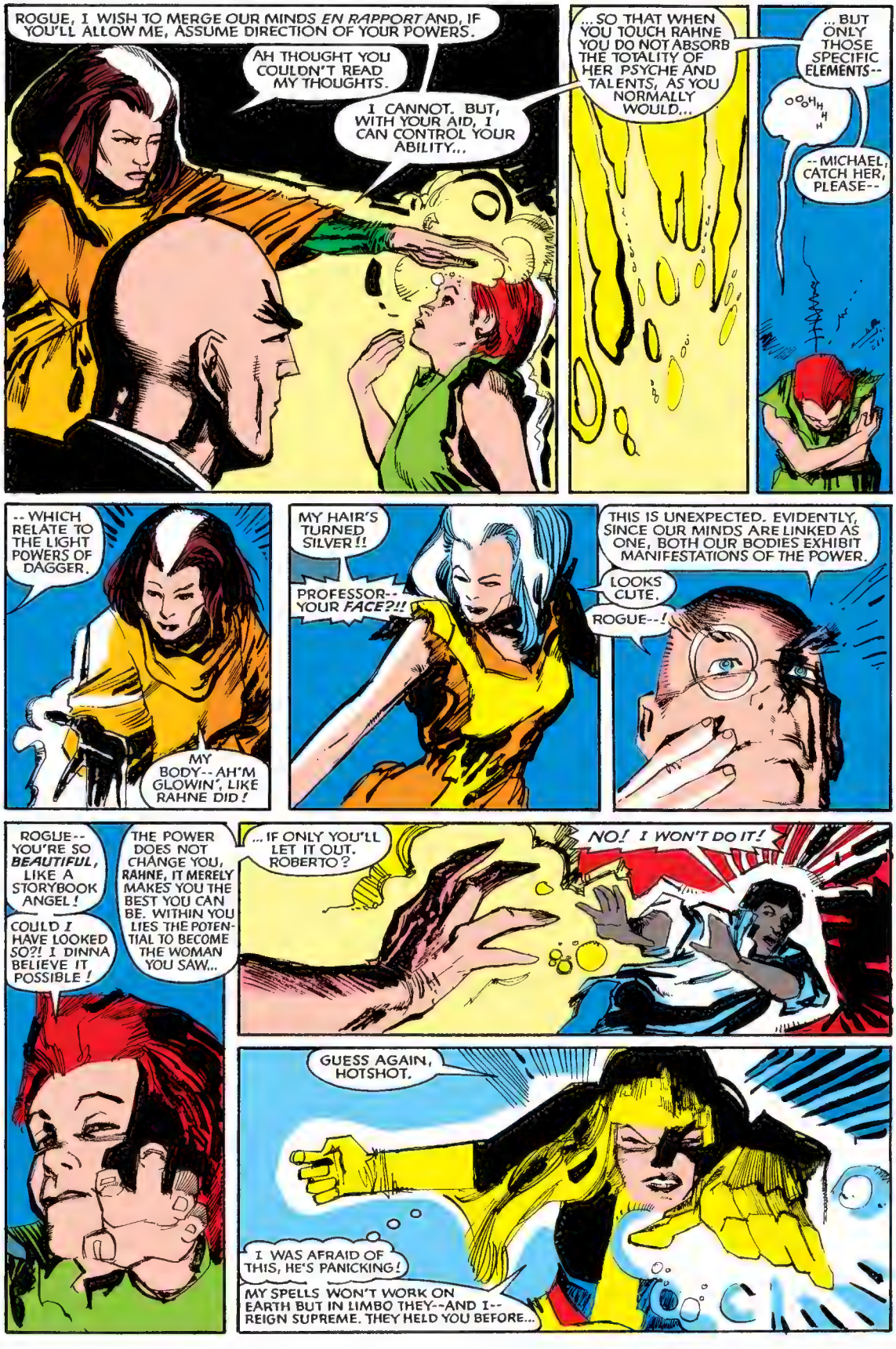
THAT WAS THEN. IT'S EASY TO BE BRAVE WHEN DUDES'RE SHOOTIN' AT YOU.
IT ISN'T, TYRONE. ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO IN A FIREFIGHT WAS RUN.
YOU'VE BEEN TO WAR, FATHER BOWEN, I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT. ME, I'M MORE CONFUSED THAN EVER.
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID BEFORE, TANDY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU. HECK, I'D DIE FIRST.

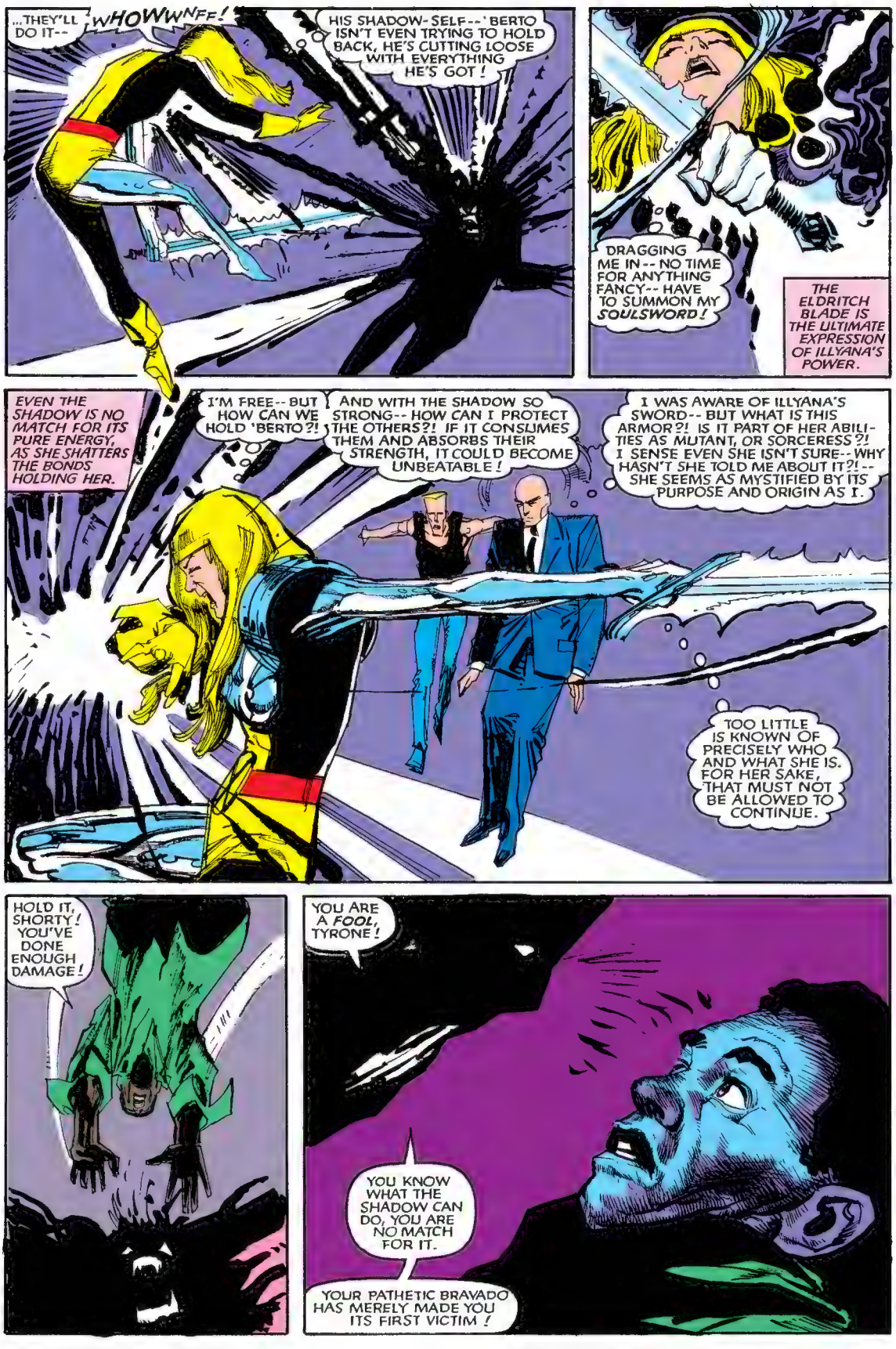

I KNOW THAT, SILLY.
HEY, TY, YOU BEEN LISTENING TO YOURSELF, FELLA! SEEMS TO ME AH AIN'T HEARD YOU STUTTER IN QUITE A WHILE.
SAM'S RIGHT, TY, THAT'S GREAT!
I DON'T GET IT. I DON'T FEEL ANY LESS AFRAID.
THAT'S THE POINT, YOU DOPE!
AH WAS SCARED STIFF EVERY SECOND AH WORKED IN THE MINES, BUT AH KEPT ON. JOB HADDA BE DONE, AH HAD PEOPLE COUNTIN' ON ME. STILL DO, IN A WAY-- ONLY IT'S THE MUTANTS 'STEAD OF MY BLOOD KIN.
YOU CAN'T LET FEAR RUN YOUR LIFE, TY. THAT'S THE REAL SHADOW, TY --THAT'S WHAT'LL SHRIVEL YOUR SOUL IF YOU LET IT.
I BELIEVE IN YOU, TYRONE--WE ALL DO-- IS IT SO HARD TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF?
DUNNO.
I GUESS NOT.
BUT SAYIN' SO D-D-DON'T CHANGE A THING! Aw, SHOOT, HERE I G-G-GO STUT-T-T-T-TERIN' AGAIN.
YOU'VE MADE A BEGINNING, TYRONE.
PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP.
I'VE BEEN REVIEWING THE SITUATION WHILE TYRONE AND I TALKED.
I BELIEVE I'VE FOUND A POSSIBLE MEANS TO RESOLVE IT.
ILLYANA, WOULD YOU PLEASE TRANSPORT US ALL TO LIMBO?
ARE YOU SURE -- ?!?
OKAY, PROFESSOR, IF YOU INSIST-- BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.


DINNA WORRY, TYRONE. TELEPORTING IS NA' UNPLEASANT.
SURE FEELS WEIRD, RAHNE.
IT'S LIMBO I HATE-- 'TIS A NASTY, WICKED PLACE.
AN', I FEAR THE IMAGE OF ITS MISTRESS' TRUE SOUL.
FIRETOP'S RIGHT, TY-- YOU'LL NEVER FIND A MORE LOATHSOME HIVE OF SCUM AND VILLAINY.
DANI-- GEEZ--!?!
WHAT AN ODD SENSATION, NOT AT ALL LIKE THE VIOLENT WRENCHING THAT ACCOMPANIES NIGHTCRAWLER'S TELEPORTS
" OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN... "

WE'VE ARRIVED, PROFESSOR. NOW WHAT?

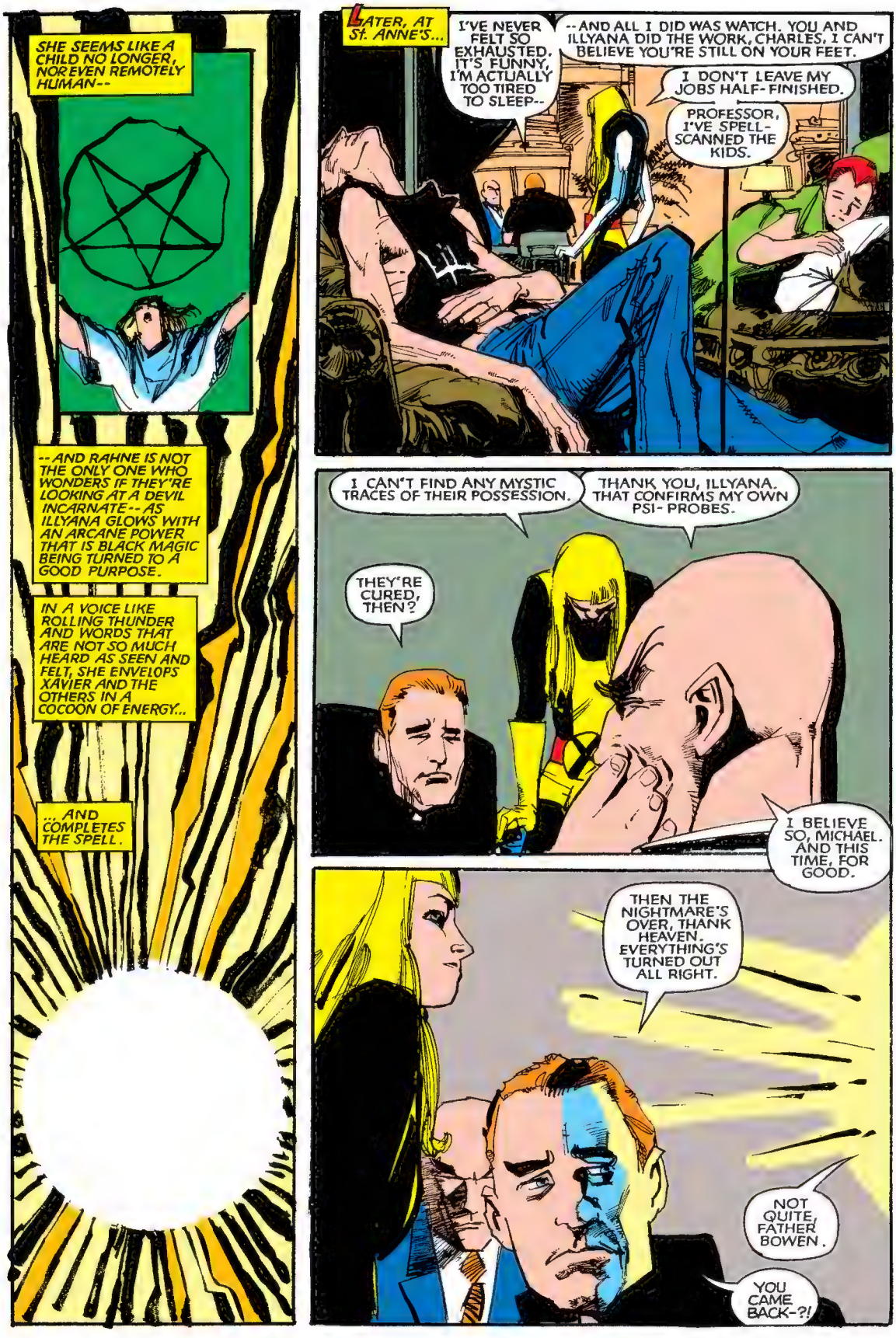
CANNONBALL, MIRAGE-- KEEP WATCH FOR ANY INDIGENOUS PREDATORS. IT WILL BE UP TO YOU TO PROTECT US.
NO PROBLEM, SIR.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, PAL. YOU'VE NEVER MET WHAT LIVES HERE. I HAVE.*
BAD, huh, CHIEF?
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
I'LL TELL YOU, SAM, THE SOONER WE'RE OUT OF HERE, THE HAPPIER I'LL BE.
* WITH ILLYANA, IN NM #17 -- AnnN.

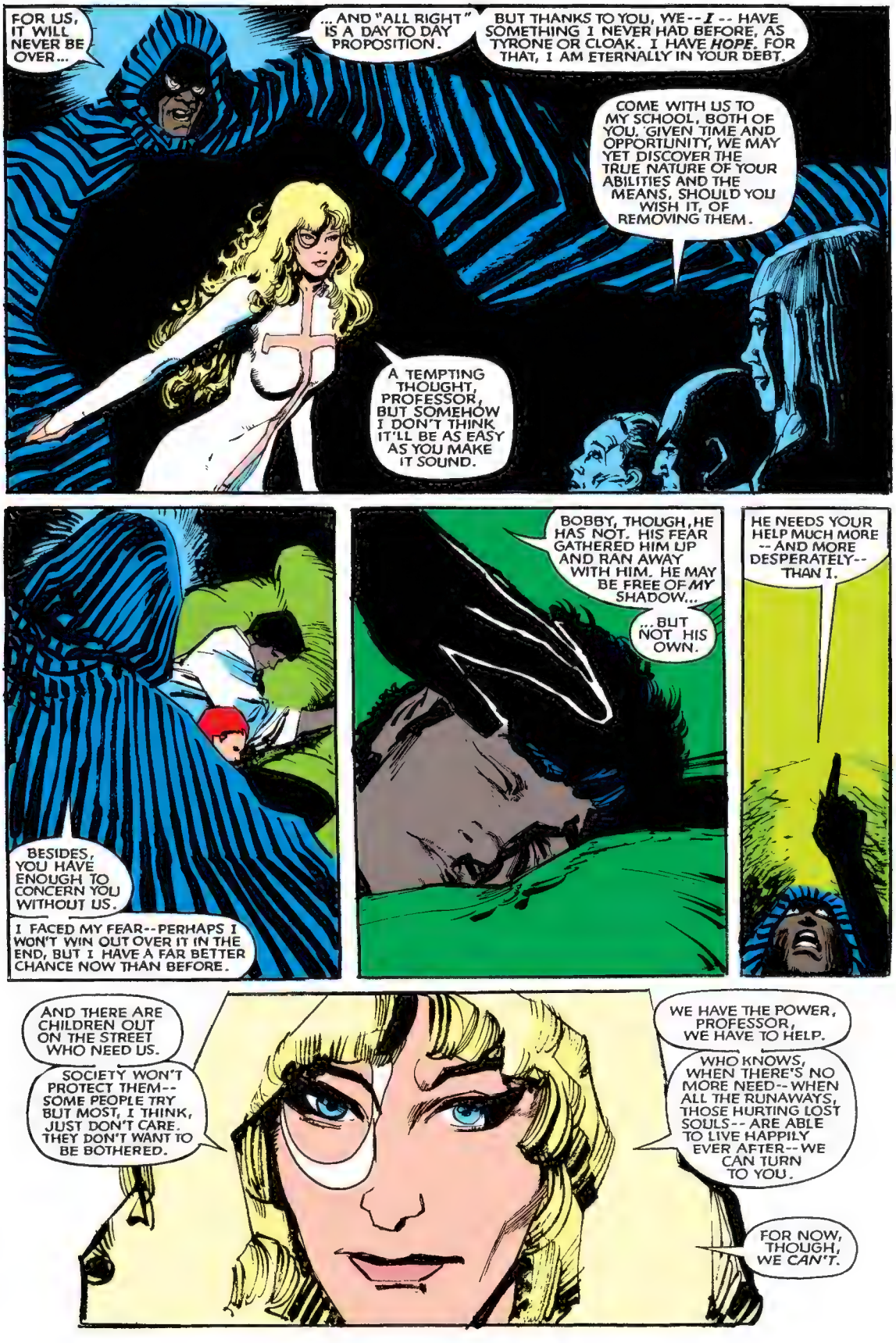

ROGUE, I WISH TO MERGE OUR MINDS *EN RAPPORT* AND, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME, ASSUME DIRECTION OF YOUR POWERS.
AH THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T READ MY THOUGHTS.
I CANNOT. BUT, WITH YOUR AID, I CAN CONTROL YOUR ABILITY...
...SO THAT WHEN YOU TOUCH RAHNE YOU DO NOT ABSORB THE TOTALITY OF HER PSYCHE AND TALENTS, AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD...
...BUT ONLY THOSE SPECIFIC ELEMENTS--
OOOHHHH
--MICHAEL, CATCH HER, PLEASE--
--WHICH RELATE TO THE LIGHT POWERS OF DAGGER.
MY BODY--AH'M GLOWIN', LIKE RAHNE DID!
MY HAIR'S TURNED SILVER!!
PROFESSOR--YOUR *FACE*?!!
THIS IS UNEXPECTED. EVIDENTLY, SINCE OUR MINDS ARE LINKED AS ONE, BOTH OUR BODIES EXHIBIT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE POWER.
LOOKS CUTE.
ROGUE--!
ROGUE--YOU'RE SO ***BEAUTIFUL***, LIKE A STORYBOOK ANGEL!
COULD I HAVE LOOKED SO?! I DINNA BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE!
THE POWER DOES NOT CHANGE YOU, RAHNE, IT MERELY MAKES YOU THE BEST YOU CAN BE. WITHIN YOU LIES THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE WOMAN YOU SAW...
...IF ONLY YOU'LL LET IT OUT, ROBERTO?
NO! I WON'T DO IT!
GUESS AGAIN, HOTSHOT.
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS, HE'S PANICKING!
MY SPELLS WON'T WORK ON EARTH BUT IN LIMBO THEY--AND I--REIGN SUPREME. THEY HELD YOU BEFORE...

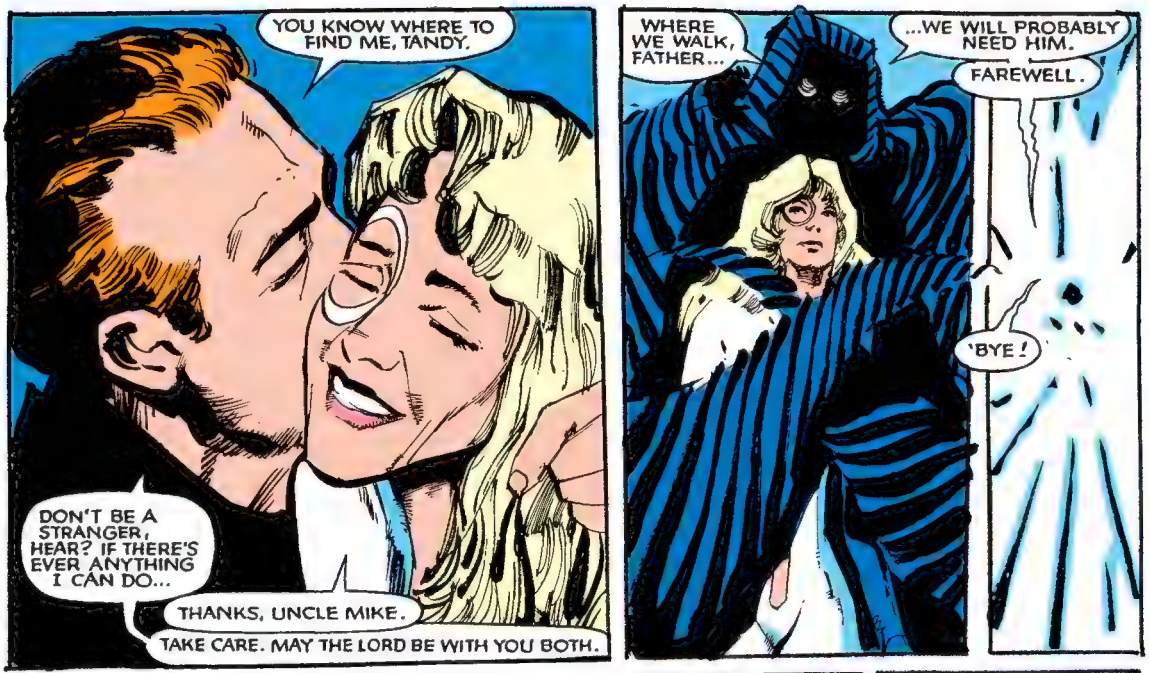

...THEY'LL DO IT--
WHOWWNFF!
HIS SHADOW-SELF--'BERTO ISN'T EVEN TRYING TO HOLD BACK, HE'S CUTTING LOOSE WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT!
DRAGGING ME IN-- NO TIME FOR ANYTHING FANCY-- HAVE TO SUMMON MY SOULSWORD!
THE ELDRITCH BLADE IS THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF ILLYANA'S POWER.
EVEN THE SHADOW IS NO MATCH FOR ITS PURE ENERGY, AS SHE SHATTERS THE BONDS HOLDING HER.
I'M FREE-- BUT HOW CAN WE HOLD 'BERTO?!
AND WITH THE SHADOW SO STRONG-- HOW CAN I PROTECT THE OTHERS?! IF IT CONSUMES THEM AND ABSORBS THEIR STRENGTH, IT COULD BECOME UNBEATABLE!
I WAS AWARE OF ILLYANA'S SWORD-- BUT WHAT IS THIS ARMOR?! IS IT PART OF HER ABILITIES AS MUTANT, OR SORCERESS?! I SENSE EVEN SHE ISN'T SURE-- WHY HASN'T SHE TOLD ME ABOUT IT?!-- SHE SEEMS AS MYSTIFIED BY ITS PURPOSE AND ORIGIN AS I.
TOO LITTLE IS KNOWN OF PRECISELY WHO AND WHAT SHE IS. FOR HER SAKE, THAT MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
HOLD IT, SHORTY! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE!
YOU ARE A FOOL, TYRONE!
YOU KNOW WHAT THE SHADOW CAN DO, YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR IT.
YOUR PATHETIC BRAVADO HAS MERELY MADE YOU ITS FIRST VICTIM!

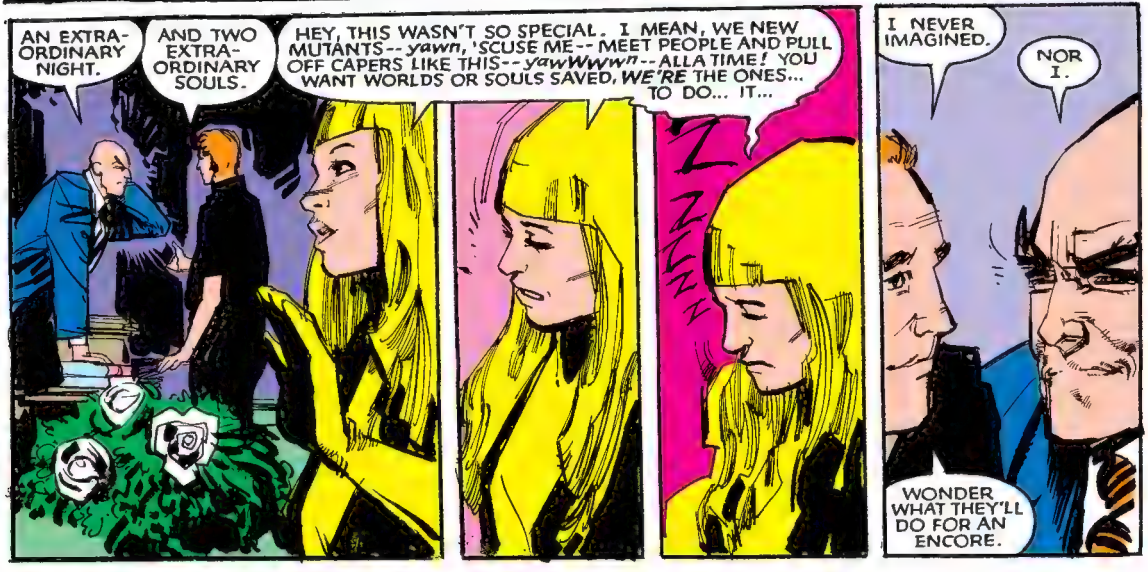
POOR KID'S OFF THE DEEP END, WORSE'N I EVER WAS!
GOTTA HOLD HIM--BUT HIS HAND--FREEZING ME TO THE MARROW! LORD, THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL THE SHADOW, THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING TO PEOPLE ALL THESE MONTHS--!
WHY'M I MAKING THIS EFFORT, ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE POINT?! I HAVEN'T A PRAYER--NO, THAT AIN'T TRUE!
SAM'S RIGHT--I'M STILL SCARED, BUT I CAN FIGHT IT! I WON'T GIVE UP!
HANG ON, TY!
THE CAVALRY JUST ARRIVED!
ROGUE GLOWS BRIGHT AS A SUPERNOVA--SO MUCH SO THAT THE ONLOOKERS HAVE TO SHIELD THEIR EYES--
--HER LIGHT FLOWING THROUGH ROBERTO'S BODY...
...PURGING HIM OF THE SHADOW, TO TAKE IT UPON HERSELF.
AS WITH ILLYANA, A BALANCE IS STRUCK --ROGUE'S FEATURES REFLECTING THE NOW FUNDAMENTAL AND ABSOLUTE DUALITY OF HER NATURE.
ROBERTO, LIKE RAHNE BEFORE HIM, REVERTS TO NORMAL...
...AND SAM PULLS HIM TO SAFETY.
THE PROF AN' ROGUE DON'T LOOK SO HOT. AH HOPE THEY CAN HANDLE THE STRAIN.
I--WE--MUST NOT LOSE CONTROL, NOW MORE THAN EVER!
SHADOW... SENSES THIS--IT ATTACKS, BUT I DARE NOT... LET IT... SUCCEED!

ROGUE-- TANDY-- TYRONE-- CLASP HANDS!
I WILL ENSURE ROGUE DOES NOT ABSORB YOUR PSYCHES.
HURRY, PROF-- AH CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE'A THIS!
NOR... I!
PRAY, MY CHILDREN--
FATHER, IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO?!
-- AND TRUST IN THE INFINITE MERCY OF THE ALMIGHTY.
ALL IS IN READINESS! STRIKE NOW, ILLYANA, WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH--
--CAST YOUR EXORCISM!
WHEN I EXORCISED THE KIDS, THE POWER ZAPPED FROM THEM TO ME. IT HAS TO HAVE A PHYSICAL, LIVING VESSEL; IT CAN'T SIMPLY BE DESTROYED.
THIS TIME, THE PROF'S PROVIDING ONE-- TANDY AND TYRONE.
IT'S SUCH A LOUSY BREAK FOR THEM-- I WISH THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY.
CROSS YOUR FINGERS, FOLKS-- HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

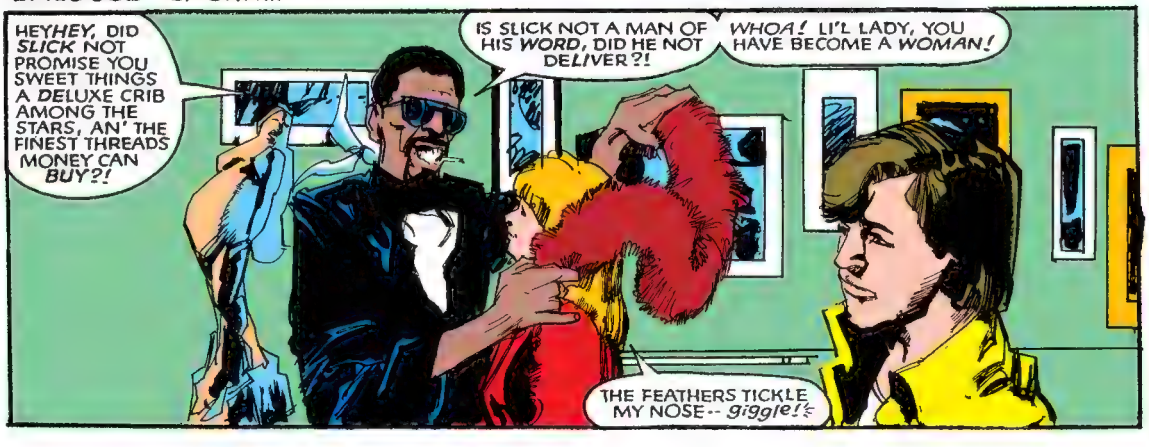

SHE SEEMS LIKE A CHILD NO LONGER, NOR EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN--
--AND RAHNE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WONDERS IF THEY'RE LOOKING AT A DEVIL INCARNATE--AS ILLYANA GLOWS WITH AN ARCANE POWER THAT IS BLACK MAGIC BEING TURNED TO A GOOD PURPOSE.
IN A VOICE LIKE ROLLING THUNDER AND WORDS THAT ARE NOT SO MUCH HEARD AS SEEN AND FELT, SHE ENVELOPS XAVIER AND THE OTHERS IN A COCOON OF ENERGY...
...AND COMPLETES THE SPELL.
LATER, AT St. ANNE'S...
I'VE NEVER FELT SO EXHAUSTED. IT'S FUNNY, I'M ACTUALLY TOO TIRED TO SLEEP--
--AND ALL I DID WAS WATCH. YOU AND ILLYANA DID THE WORK, CHARLES, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL ON YOUR FEET.
I DON'T LEAVE MY JOBS HALF-FINISHED.
PROFESSOR, I'VE SPELL-SCANNED THE KIDS.
I CAN'T FIND ANY MYSTIC TRACES OF THEIR POSSESSION.
THANK YOU, ILLYANA. THAT CONFIRMS MY OWN PSI-PROBES.
THEY'RE CURED, THEN?
I BELIEVE SO, MICHAEL. AND THIS TIME, FOR GOOD.
THEN THE NIGHTMARE'S OVER, THANK HEAVEN. EVERYTHING'S TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT.
NOT QUITE, FATHER BOWEN.
YOU CAME BACK-?!


FOR US, IT WILL NEVER BE OVER...
...AND "ALL RIGHT" IS A DAY TO DAY PROPOSITION.
BUT THANKS TO YOU, WE--I -- HAVE SOMETHING I NEVER HAD BEFORE, AS TYRONE OR CLOAK. I HAVE HOPE. FOR THAT, I AM ETERNALLY IN YOUR DEBT.
COME WITH US TO MY SCHOOL, BOTH OF YOU. GIVEN TIME AND OPPORTUNITY, WE MAY YET DISCOVER THE TRUE NATURE OF YOUR ABILITIES AND THE MEANS, SHOULD YOU WISH IT, OF REMOVING THEM.
A TEMPTING THOUGHT, PROFESSOR, BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE AS EASY AS YOU MAKE IT SOUND.
BESIDES, YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO CONCERN YOU WITHOUT US.
I FACED MY FEAR--PERHAPS I WON'T WIN OUT OVER IT IN THE END, BUT I HAVE A FAR BETTER CHANCE NOW THAN BEFORE.
BOBBY, THOUGH, HE HAS NOT. HIS FEAR GATHERED HIM UP AND RAN AWAY WITH HIM. HE MAY BE FREE OF MY SHADOW...
...BUT NOT HIS OWN.
HE NEEDS YOUR HELP MUCH MORE -- AND MORE DESPERATELY-- THAN I.
AND THERE ARE CHILDREN OUT ON THE STREET WHO NEED US.
SOCIETY WON'T PROTECT THEM-- SOME PEOPLE TRY BUT MOST, I THINK, JUST DON'T CARE. THEY DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED.
WE HAVE THE POWER, PROFESSOR, WE HAVE TO HELP.
WHO KNOWS, WHEN THERE'S NO MORE NEED--WHEN ALL THE RUNAWAYS, THOSE HURTING LOST SOULS-- ARE ABLE TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER--WE CAN TURN TO YOU.
FOR NOW, THOUGH, WE CAN'T.

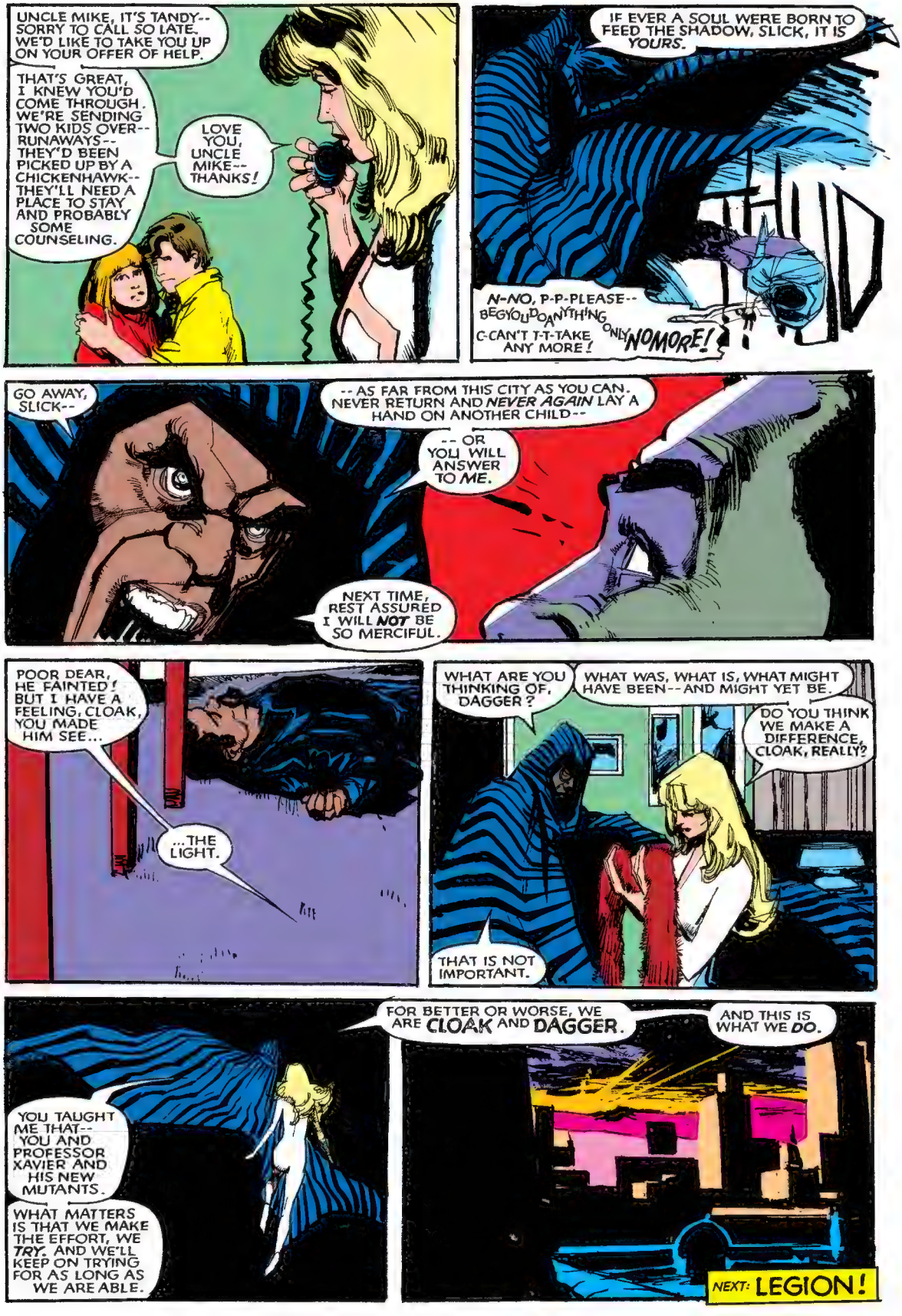

YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME, TANDY.
DON'T BE A STRANGER, HEAR? IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO...
THANKS, UNCLE MIKE.
TAKE CARE. MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU BOTH.
WHERE WE WALK, FATHER...
...WE WILL PROBABLY NEED HIM.
FAREWELL.
'BYE!


AN EXTRA-ORDINARY NIGHT.
AND TWO EXTRA-ORDINARY SOULS.
HEY, THIS WASN'T SO SPECIAL. I MEAN, WE NEW MUTANTS-- yawn, 'SCUSE ME-- MEET PEOPLE AND PULL OFF CAPERS LIKE THIS-- yawWwwn-- ALLA TIME! YOU WANT WORLDS OR SOULS SAVED, WE'RE THE ONES... TO DO... IT...
ZZZZ
I NEVER IMAGINED.
NOR I.
WONDER WHAT THEY'LL DO FOR AN ENCORE.

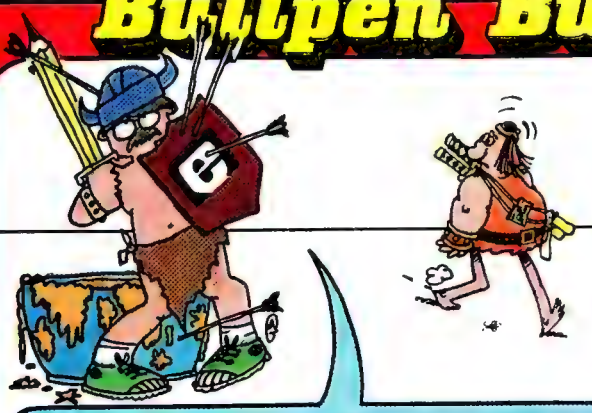
EPILOGUE-- *UPTOWN...*


HEYHEY, DID SLICK NOT PROMISE YOU SWEET THINGS A DELUXE CRIB AMONG THE STARS, AN' THE FINEST THREADS MONEY CAN BUY?!
IS SLICK NOT A MAN OF HIS WORD, DID HE NOT DELIVER?!
WHOA! LI'L LADY, YOU HAVE BECOME A WOMAN!
THE FEATHERS TICKLE MY NOSE-- giggle!

THESE FO' YOU, M'MAN. TRY'M ON AN' STRUT YOUR STUFF BEFO' YO' FOX, SHOW HER YOU BE ONE MUY MACHO STOMPER.
SHOOT--WHERE YOU BEEN, SPIT FO' BRAINS? THIS IS THE CITY, YOU IN THE BIG TIME!
YOU DON'T WEAR NO OUTFIT LIKE THAT OVER PANTS, CHUMP--YOU WEAR THE LEATHERS ALONE, NOTHIN' ELSE.
HEY, DON'T LOOK SO SPOOKED--HEHHEH, L'IL GHETTO HUMOR--SLICK'S COOL, HE DIDN'T MEAN T' YELL. HE WON'T MAKE YOU DO NOTHIN' YOU DON'T WANT TO.
TRUST SLICK, L'IL DARLIN'S, HE'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU. GOT JUST THE THING HERE TO CALM YOUR NERVES AN' REV YOUR MOTORS. ONE STIFF TOOT, WE'LL BE READY TO PARTY!!!
WHA'SA MATTER? WHA'CHU LOOKIN' AT, AIN'T NO ONE ELSE HERE?!!
WRONG, VERMIN. YOUR HOUR OF RETRIBUTION IS AT HAND.
YOU WON'T ADD THESE BABIES TO YOUR STABLE, NOR POISON THEIR BODIES WITH YOUR DRUGS.
WHO'S T' STOP ME, BLONDIE?!
I AM.
YEAIERRRGH!
MY LIGHT KNIVES WON'T KILL YOU, SLICK, BUT BY THE TIME CLOAK IS FINISHED, YOU MAY WELL WISH THEY HAD.


UNCLE MIKE, IT'S TANDY--SORRY TO CALL SO LATE. WE'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER OF HELP.
THAT'S GREAT, I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH. WE'RE SENDING TWO KIDS OVER--RUNAWAYS--THEY'D BEEN PICKED UP BY A CHICKENHAWK--THEY'LL NEED A PLACE TO STAY AND PROBABLY SOME COUNSELING.
LOVE YOU, UNCLE MIKE--THANKS!
IF EVER A SOUL WERE BORN TO FEED THE SHADOW, SLICK, IT IS YOURS.
N-NO, P-P-PLEASE--BEGYOU DOANYTHING, C-CAN'T T-T-TAKE ANY MORE! ONLY NOMORE!
GO AWAY, SLICK--
--AS FAR FROM THIS CITY AS YOU CAN. NEVER RETURN AND NEVER AGAIN LAY A HAND ON ANOTHER CHILD--
--OR YOU WILL ANSWER TO ME.
NEXT TIME, REST ASSURED I WILL NOT BE SO MERCIFUL.
POOR DEAR, HE FAINTED! BUT I HAVE A FEELING, CLOAK, YOU MADE HIM SEE...
...THE LIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF, DAGGER?
WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN--AND MIGHT YET BE.
DO YOU THINK WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE, CLOAK, REALLY?
THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT.
YOU TAUGHT ME THAT--YOU AND PROFESSOR XAVIER AND HIS NEW MUTANTS.
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE MAKE THE EFFORT, WE TRY. AND WE'LL KEEP ON TRYING FOR AS LONG AS WE ARE ABLE.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, WE ARE CLOAK AND DAGGER.
AND THIS IS WHAT WE DO.
NEXT: LEGION!

Bullpen Bulletins



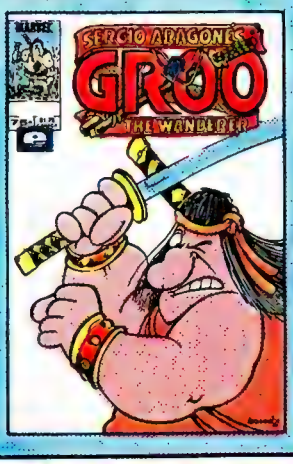
Hi. I'm Archie Goodwin, editor of Marvel's EPIC COMICS line, appearing through the courtesy of my close personal friend (and Boss) Jim Shooter, who's always looking for an excuse to get out of doing one of these Bullpen Bulletins himself.

You may wonder why an editor in charge of such maturely-oriented, expensively-printed, creator-owned, direct sales-only titles as VOID INDIGO, TIME SPIRITS, and SISTERHOOD OF STEEL is risking his life like this defending a giant bowl of cheese dip. Well, it's just my sophisticated, symbolic way of telling you that one of the biggest defenders of cheese dip *ever* is about to get his own Epic Comic. I'm talking

SERGIO ARAGONÉS'
GROO
THE WANDERER!

If you frequent comics or specialty shops, you may have already encountered this swift-sworded, slow-witted, always hilarious barbarian. But if you've *never* seen GROO, we're about to change all that, because from now on, you'll be able to find him *everywhere!* Sergio's creation (That's right, he's the same Sergio Aragonés famous for his work in MAD and about a jillion different paperback books) is going to be the first Epic Comic available on newsstands all over just like your favorite Marvel titles! But it won't be the *last!* So you see, GROO is far more than just another great seventy-five cent comic book on sale right now . . . it's the beginning of an ENTIRE NEW ERA for Epic Comics!

Uh . . . Meantime, anybody care for some leftover cheese dip?



THE HYPE BOX

G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #1 — Now's your chance to plug into the G.I. Joe saga and learn everything about G.I. Joe! This special Yearbook contains the complete reprint of the legendary G.I. JOE #1, highlights from every other issue to bring you up to date with the current story, selected dossiers of your favorite Joes, and an article about G.I. Joe on television! Look for the incredible wrap-around cover by MICHAEL GOLDEN! This is the book you've been waiting for, so reserve your copy now!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100 — A special double-size anniversary issue! SEE Kingpin's ultimate revenge! SEE what finally happens between the Black Cat and Spider-Man! SEE the furious battle between Spider-Man and Spot! SEE . . . the Black Costume! Written and pencilled by AL MILGROM! Inked by GEOF ISHERWOOD!

MARVEL FANFARE #19 — Featuring a *Cloak & Dagger* extravaganza! This 3-part story reveals new insights about the *true* nature of Cloak and Dagger's relationship! And each part was drawn by different artists, including TONY SALMONS, RICK LEONARDI and TERRY AUSTIN, and KERRY GAMMILL and GEORGE FREEMAN! And it was all written by BILL MANTLO! On sale *now* at your local comic shop!

SERGIO ARAGONÉS'S GROO THE WANDERER #1 — Madcap MADman SERGIO ARAGONÉS brings Groo to EPIC COMICS, and the fun is just beginning! Follow Groo as he wanders through an age of wizards and monsters, looking for an honest job as a mercenary. Unfortunately, Groo does what Groo does best, and that means everything is bound to go wrong! Join Groo, Sergio, and mendicant MARK EVANIER in some of the funniest adventures ever inspired by cheese dip! Cheese dip!? (Hey, just take our word for it — don't miss the new monthly adventures of GROO, on sale at your local comics shop and *newsstands everywhere!*)

SUPERSPECIAL #36: DUNE — Arrakis, a world of deserts and voracious sandworms, where water is the most precious commodity, would seem to be the last place anyone would want to go. Why, then, does it hold the key to the future of galactic civilization? Frank Herbert's science fiction classic has become the movie event of the decade, and this is the official movie adaptation! Written by RALPH MACCHIO! Illustrated by BILL SIENKIEWICZ!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #21**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #216**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #25** — Featuring the final chapter of the *Cloak & Dagger* trilogy! You dare not miss it!
- ☐ **RED SONJA #7**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #11** — The penultimate chapter of the war that shook the Marvel Universe!
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #27**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #1** — Because you demanded it!! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #262**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #303**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #27**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #8**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #6**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #20**
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **CONAN THE DESTROYER (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #305**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #253**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #166**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #173** — Reprinting "The Thrill of the Hunt," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man #34*.
- ☐ **X-MEN #191**
- ☐ **ROM #64** — P. CRAIG RUSSELL is the Guest Inker over pencils by STEVE DITKO in this thrilling issue written by BILL MANTLO!
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #115** — Cage and The Fist (and writer JIM OWSLEY) welcome new regular penciler MARK BRIGHT! The action is just beginning!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #33**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #276** — Not a dream! Not a hoax! JOHN BYRNE introduces the inking wizardry of JERRY ORDWAY! It's the start of a *new* era of greatness!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #192**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #141**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #93**
- ☐ **THOR #353**
- ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #5**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100** — A milestone issue! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DR. WHO #6**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

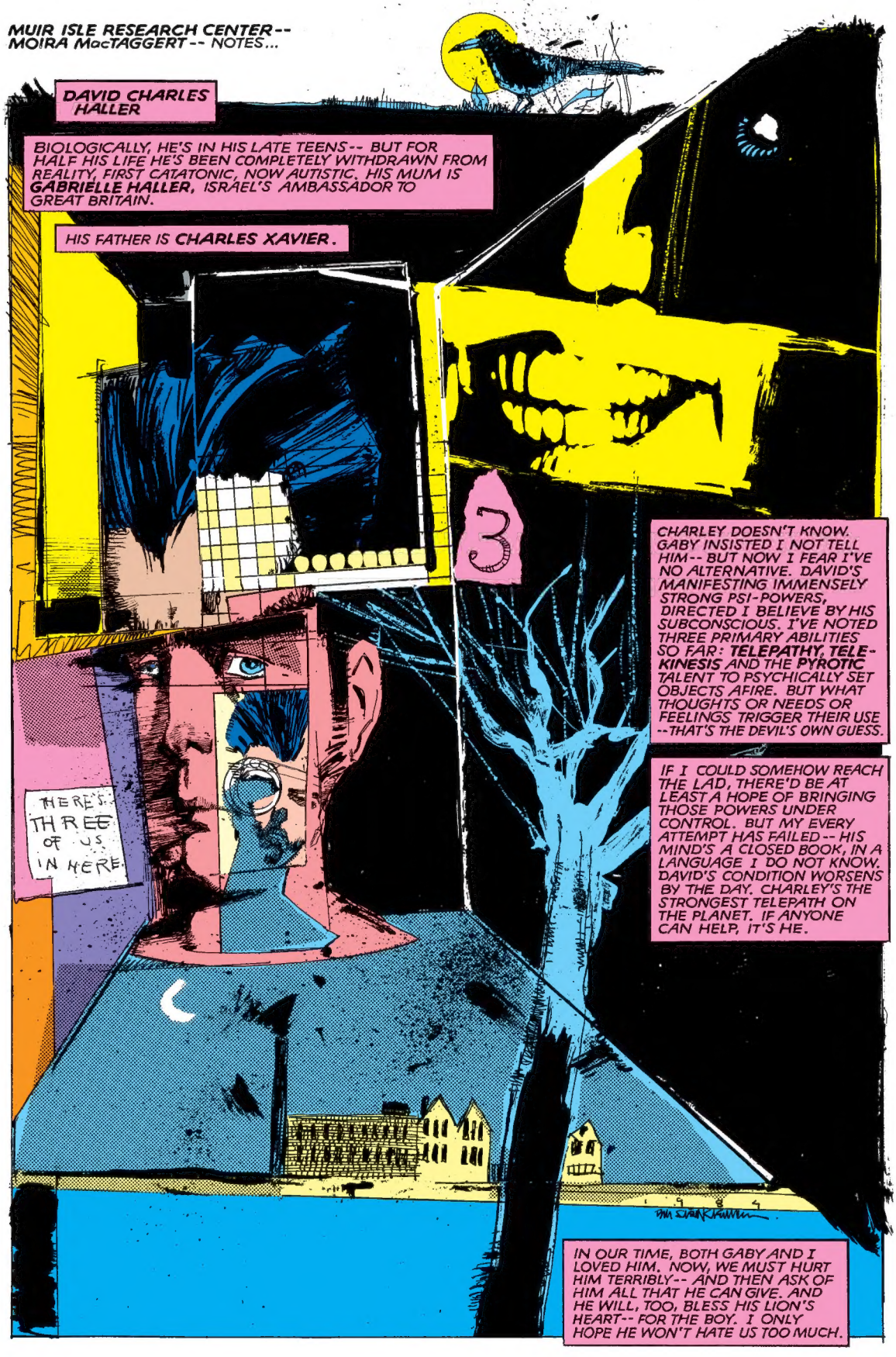
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #109**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #19** — A *Cloak & Dagger* Special! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #24**

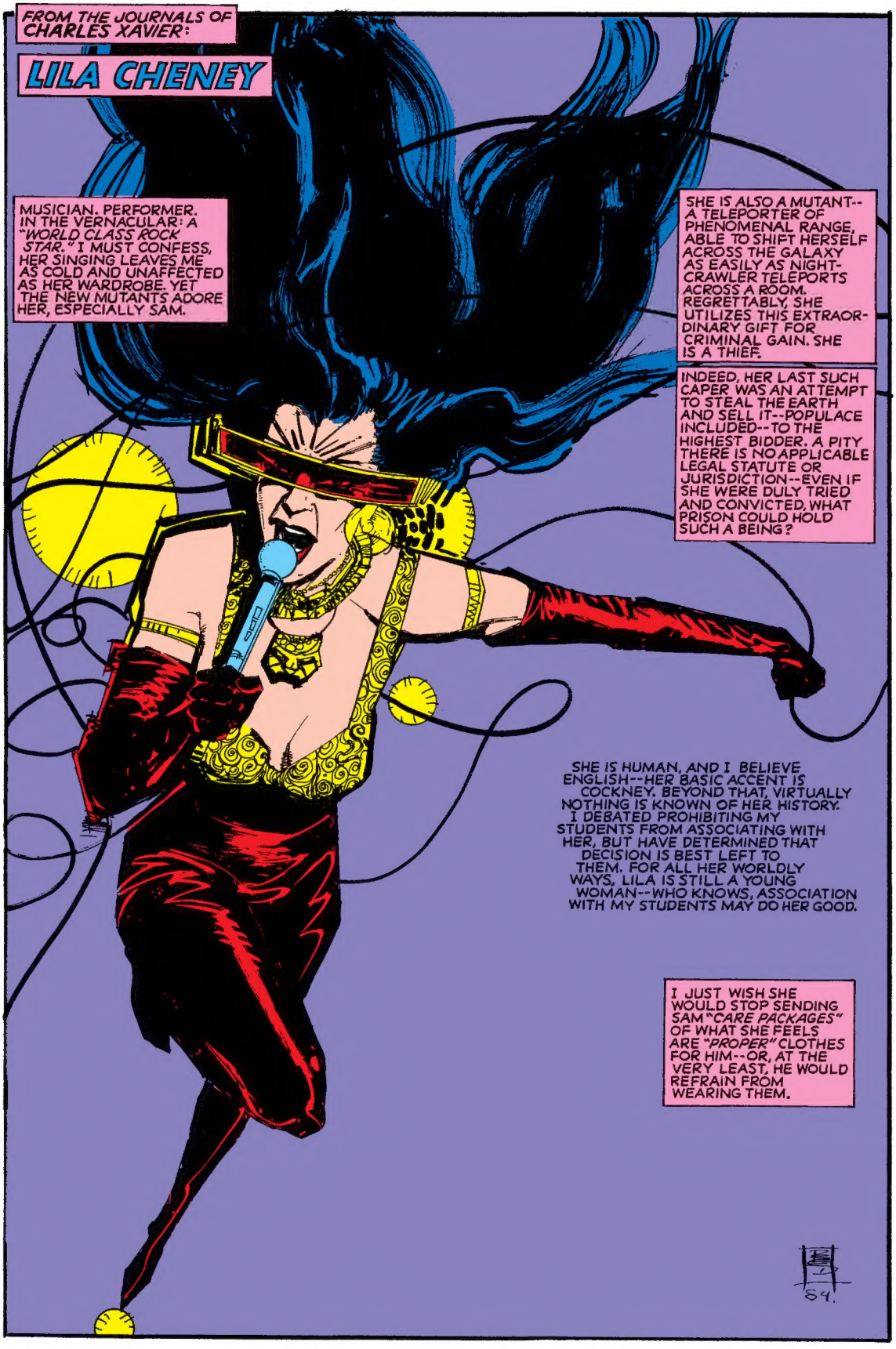
EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **SERGIO ARAGONÉS' GROO THE WANDERER #1** — Featuring the hilarious misadventures of SERGIO ARAGONÉS' wandering barbarian! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **THE SWORDS OF SWASHBUCKLERS #1** — Those space-faring pirates find excitement and adventure in this new series by BILL MANTLO and BUTCH GUICE! Continued from the Graphic Novel!
- ☐ **COYOTE #10**
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #28**

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #36: DUNE** — Danger and intrigue are a way of life on the desert world! The complete Marvel adaptation of the hit movie! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #37: 2010** — The space odyssey continues in this Marvel adaptation of the most eagerly awaited movie sequel of all! Written by J.M. DEMATTEIS. Pencils by LARRY HAMA and JOE BARNEY. Finishes by TOM PALMER.


MUIR ISLE RESEARCH CENTER--
MOIRA MacTAGGERT-- NOTES...
DAVID CHARLES HALLER
BIOLOGICALLY, HE'S IN HIS LATE TEENS-- BUT FOR HALF HIS LIFE HE'S BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN FROM REALITY, FIRST CATATONIC, NOW AUTISTIC. HIS MUM IS GABRIELLE HALLER, ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN.
HIS FATHER IS CHARLES XAVIER.
3
THERE'S THREE OF US IN HERE.
CHARLEY DOESN'T KNOW. GABY INSISTED I NOT TELL HIM-- BUT NOW I FEAR I'VE NO ALTERNATIVE. DAVID'S MANIFESTING IMMENSELY STRONG PSI-POWERS, DIRECTED I BELIEVE BY HIS SUBCONSCIOUS. I'VE NOTED THREE PRIMARY ABILITIES SO FAR: TELEPATHY, TELE-KINESIS AND THE PYROTIC TALENT TO PSYCHICALLY SET OBJECTS AFIRE. BUT WHAT THOUGHTS OR NEEDS OR FEELINGS TRIGGER THEIR USE --THAT'S THE DEVIL'S OWN GUESS.
IF I COULD SOMEHOW REACH THE LAD, THERE'D BE AT LEAST A HOPE OF BRINGING THOSE POWERS UNDER CONTROL. BUT MY EVERY ATTEMPT HAS FAILED-- HIS MIND'S A CLOSED BOOK, IN A LANGUAGE I DO NOT KNOW. DAVID'S CONDITION WORSENS BY THE DAY. CHARLEY'S THE STRONGEST TELEPATH ON THE PLANET. IF ANYONE CAN HELP, IT'S HE.
IN OUR TIME, BOTH GABY AND I LOVED HIM. NOW, WE MUST HURT HIM TERRIBLY-- AND THEN ASK OF HIM ALL THAT HE CAN GIVE. AND HE WILL, TOO, BLESS HIS LION'S HEART-- FOR THE BOY. I ONLY HOPE HE WON'T HATE US TOO MUCH.


FROM THE JOURNALS OF CHARLES XAVIER:
LILA CHENEY
MUSICIAN. PERFORMER. IN THE VERNACULAR: A "WORLD CLASS ROCK STAR." I MUST CONFESS, HER SINGING LEAVES ME AS COLD AND UNAFFECTED AS HER WARDROBE. YET THE NEW MUTANTS ADORE HER, ESPECIALLY SAM.
SHE IS ALSO A MUTANT--A TELEPORTER OF PHENOMENAL RANGE, ABLE TO SHIFT HERSELF ACROSS THE GALAXY AS EASILY AS NIGHTCRAWLER TELEPORTS ACROSS A ROOM. REGRETTABLY, SHE UTILIZES THIS EXTRAORDINARY GIFT FOR CRIMINAL GAIN. SHE IS A THIEF.
INDEED, HER LAST SUCH CAPER WAS AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE EARTH AND SELL IT--POPULACE INCLUDED--TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. A PITY THERE IS NO APPLICABLE LEGAL STATUTE OR JURISDICTION--EVEN IF SHE WERE DULY TRIED AND CONVICTED, WHAT PRISON COULD HOLD SUCH A BEING?
SHE IS HUMAN, AND I BELIEVE ENGLISH--HER BASIC ACCENT IS COCKNEY. BEYOND THAT, VIRTUALLY NOTHING IS KNOWN OF HER HISTORY. I DEBATED PROHIBITING MY STUDENTS FROM ASSOCIATING WITH HER, BUT HAVE DETERMINED THAT DECISION IS BEST LEFT TO THEM. FOR ALL HER WORLDLY WAYS, LILA IS STILL A YOUNG WOMAN--WHO KNOWS, ASSOCIATION WITH MY STUDENTS MAY DO HER GOOD.
I JUST WISH SHE WOULD STOP SENDING SAM "CARE PACKAGES" OF WHAT SHE FEELS ARE "PROPER" CLOTHES FOR HIM--OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, HE WOULD REFRAIN FROM WEARING THEM.
84.

REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
PETER SANDERSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Dear Professor X,

I realize that this isn't the best time to bring something like this to your attention, what with all that's been going on between Danielle and Ororo, but I felt it my duty to pass along this information to you before it would be too late.

You see, Professor, there are these four kids who were given powers by a Kymellian sorcerer so that they could save the world from total annihilation. Also, their parents were captured by these Snarks so they could get the formula for the Annihilator from their father, who built it. But there are a few minor technicalities.

For starters, the oldest one, Alex, is only twelve years old. But, when you take into consideration the fact that they're young, it would be easier to help them to develop their powers to the utmost. That's where another technicality comes in: they weren't born with their powers. But, seeing as how you helped to develop mine, despite the fact that I wasn't born with them (at least the first set of powers), I figured that you could overlook that for them like you did for me. The names of the kids are Alex, Jack, Julie and Katie. Alex has control over gravity (which can be very helpful when things start to get nasty), Jack has power over density, Julie can travel at the speed of light, and Katie can disintegrate objects and then use the power to create devastating fireballs.

Who knows? Maybe this can be the start of another group affiliation: the NEW New Mutants?!

I would handle this by myself, but you know that I just can't have anything to do with super heroes, especially after I gave up being a super hero a few months ago myself. Thanks, Prof!

the ex X-Boy
and former Mutantier
(no address)

The kids you refer to, "X," are more properly known as *Power Pack* and should they ever apply to Professor Xavier and his School for Gifted Youngsters for aid, we feel sure they would not be turned away, despite the fact they aren't technically mutants. The Professor will help anyone in need. At the moment, though, they seem to be doing fine on their own — with the occasional assistance of their Kymellian SmartShip *Friday*. However, we suggest you keep an eye out for POWER PACK #12 and X-MEN #195, wherein the Power kids get to meet not only Professor Xavier's Pride-'n'-Joy but also the Morlocks, the band of outlaw mutants who live beneath the streets of Manhattan. Throw in some giant alligators and a small but feisty alien dragon and things should prove rather ... interesting. We can't wait!

Hey Guys —

Regarding NEW MUTANTS #19: *WOW!*

You can take your various alien powerhouses, your morbid magickers and green behemoths, you can take your Canadian, Japanese or Tunisian battle-bunches: they can't match one *page* of the latest NEW MUTANTS comic. Please, whatever magic you guys have got going, *please* don't lose it! This stuff's just too darn good! So you can tell those namby-pamby "Ex-Men" that they can crawl back into their holes: the New Mutants can save the world for my four bits!

Trevor Laib
4525 9th St NE
Puyallup, Washington 98371

Dear Ann, Peter & everyone else,

It's time once again for an edition of "At the Comic Book Rack," the comic book review show. Today's review is of THE NEW MUTANTS. And to start our show, here is Jim with some comments on issue #21 ...

JIM: I really liked #21. The story and dialogue were terrific. I really enjoyed reading the conversation between Sam and Roberto on pages 10 and 11. So Heinlein is Sam's favorite SF author? He's one of my favorites, too!

JAMES: I just want to know why Illyana showed up at the end wearing a spacesuit. This couldn't have anything to do with what is coming up in X-MEN ANNUAL #8, could it?

JIM: Getting back to our review, I must say that Sienkiewicz is definitely getting better. The pinups at the end of the book were excellent.

JAMES: You're right about that, Jim. In a few more issues, you probably won't miss Buscema anymore.

JIM: Maybe. Did you notice Louise "Weezie" Simonson on Page 2? Isn't she a little old to be going to slumber parties?

JAMES: I have it all figured out. The POWER PACK kids are going to show up at the school and Weezie was checking ahead for them. Making reservations or something like that.

JIM: I was glad to see that the name of the letter column was finally changed. Better late than never, I guess.

Jim (or James) Ogle
526 Nebraska Avenue
Phillipsburg, Kansas 67661

There's a story about Illyana's spacesuit — we may even tell it someday. And you're *never* too old for slumber parties — if boys could go, you'd know that for a fact! As it is, that ish gave you a pretty good idea of what you're missing!

Friends,

After reading NEW MUTANTS #19, I am left remembering Illyana. She has never made much of an impression on me before — her background was dramatic but, in stark contrast to Kitty Pryde, her character and personality were obscured by her circumstances. Who she was got lost in the question of *what* she was: Peter's little sister, Kitty's friend, Belasco's creation or the magickal Storm's disciple. The good / evil dichotomy was the most intriguing thing about her. Truth to tell, I found her circumstances too contrived.

But now, the Claremont / Sienkiewicz team has made Illyana the character she should be. Incredible art — she looks both innocent and corrupted. The greatest moment was the penultimate page where she, the child-sorceress, did not know what to do. Dare we hope, sometime, for an encounter between Illyana and Stephen Strange?

I enjoyed this comic extraordinarily. The Shardik-like bear seems to be both a nightmare image and a power-totem. Nurse Friedlander was remarkably well-introduced as a sympathetic character who, without obvious significance, was memorable as soon as we met her. The odd armor Illyana developed has, I assume, something to do with the mysterious alien of last issue, and the Starjammers' moving object. Will Karma return? Why has Rahne changed in her wolf form? Will Dani be paralyzed? Will this comic continue with such dramatic quality? We shall see.

Two more good touches were the crucifix visible on Rahne in her wolf shape, and the characteristic arm-crossed stance of Illyana.

Elizabeth Holden
286 Daly Ave / Apt 3
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6G5 Canada

Illyana and the Master of the Mystic Arts are introduced in X-MEN #191, on sale this very month, Liz — what comes of that, only the Fates know, and, as usual, they aren't telling. Next issue of NEW MUTANTS will reveal what happened to Nurse Friedlander and her policeman beau. And yes, Karma makes a *very* impressive return. Rahne's growing up — and at that age, *everything* changes!

Dear Editors,

Three cheers for Sam Guthrie. Robert Anson Heinlein is *my* favorite, too! Unfortunately, he never wrote anything called "Door into Shadow." However, he *did* write "Door into Summer," a good (my review) story about cold sleep and robots of the future. Somebody made a "boo-boo."

Monica Lynn Rose
24 Manchester Avenue
Keyport, NJ 07735

Not us, Monica, because the book referred to was *not* Mr. Heinlein's classic novel but a far more recent — in fact, just published, by Bluejay Books — work by Diane Duane. Our Sam's tastes are as eclectic as they are good.

Before closing, a word of thanks and appreciation to Chicago artist — and creator of "Beanworld" — Larry Marder, for some of the nicest and zaniest and funniest and most charming letters we've ever received. Because they're drawn, we can't reproduce them but we just wanted to let him know how we felt.

NEXT ISSUE: Two years ago, a young man was admitted to Moira MacTaggert's Mutant Research Center; in 30 days, his saga begins — with consequences that will rock the lives of all who encounter him, especially Charles Xavier. His power is awesome, his name is *LEGION*.

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Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...